

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Seidler Disciplined For Gay Day Kiss

*He Rejects Verbal Reprimand;
Lawyers Ponder Written Action*

by Allen White

Gay police liaison Officer Paul Seidler has been issued a verbal reprimand for kissing another man at the Freedom Day parade in June. A written reprimand is said to be forthcoming.

Former Police Commissioner Jane McKaskle Murphy has denounced the charges against Seidler as "ridiculous." He is accused of "conduct unbecoming a police officer" for kissing Walter Mellon, the head of the San Francisco AIDS Fund, at the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade in June. KTVU, channel 2 happened to tape the kiss, and aired it on their nightly news, which is the primary reason for the internal complaint.



Paul Seidler (Photo: Rink)

This charge has been further compounded, Seidler said, because he is now being charged with lying to the police department investigator working on the case. Seidler claims Mellon kissed him. The department says he kissed Mellon. Police logic evidently is that short people don't reach up and kiss taller people.

Police investigating the case claim that Seidler must have initiated the kiss, which Seidler denies, because Seidler is 6 foot, 2 inches tall and Mellon is only 5 foot, 8 inches tall.

Seidler was given a "verbal reprimand," which he refuses to sign as having acknowledged. There is to be a written reprimand also on its way. Apparently the delay is that legal officials in the police department can't figure how to write the reprimand.

Controversy over the Seidler kiss case has been going on within the San Francisco Police De-

(Continued on page 10)

Corrections Officer Wins Bias Case

*State Interrogated His Friends,
Harassed and Threatened Him*

Gerald LaFevre, former correctional lieutenant at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, announced Nov. 13 that he and representatives for the Department of Corrections had settled his claims against the Corrections Department.

In his complaints filed with the State Personnel Board and with the Department of Corrections, Mr. LaFevre recounted a prolonged series of events which, he alleged, constituted harassment, retaliation, and discrimination against him because of his sexual orientation.

Under an executive order initiated by former Gov. Jerry Brown, state employees cannot be discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation.

LaFevre said, "Despite the legal protections, my supervisor decided I couldn't remain in my job when he found out I was Gay."

In his complaint, Mr. LaFevre charged that his supervisor, W. W. (Wally) Smith, formerly Associate Superintendent at the California Medical Facility (CMF), Vacaville, after learning of Mr. LaFevre's sexual orientation, threatened him with possible termination and

(Continued on page 10)



Above the Tumult of the city, an arbor of peace; Buena Vista Park, aptly named. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Shilts Calls Gay Leaders 'Inept,' 'Bunch of Jerks'

*Chronicle's Gay Reporter Stirs Controversy
With Candid Interview in Skin Magazine*

Ed. Note: Randy Shilts, openly Gay reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, has stirred up controversy again. This time, the forum isn't the *Chronicle's* pages, but the pages of the Gay skin magazine *Stallion*.

In an in-depth interview, Shilts calls the city's Gay leaders "inept" and "a bunch of jerks"—strong words from the reporter who is assigned to cover those leaders for his newspaper.

The interview was conducted by George Heymont, a local free-lance writer and longtime contributor to the *Bay Area Reporter*. Below are extended excerpts from the interview. Shilts' responses are neither condensed nor altered. Whole questions and responses are excerpted. The full interview appears in the November issue of *Stallion*, now on the newsstands.

by George Heymont

How do you distinguish your role as a Gay journalist from that of a Gay liberationist?

Shilts: Whenever a hot issue comes along, I'm going to become an unpopular guy, because I'm always going to be a journalist first and a Gay person second. Back in 1978, when I was covering the Briggs initiative for Channel 9 and doing a lot of freelance writing, I constantly outraged Gay activists because, while covering the scene, I would quote John Briggs in my stories. Gay ac-

tivists yelled, screamed, and kicked. Some of them wouldn't talk to me because they were so mad about my reporting. But reporting both sides of the story was part of my job!

Ironically, when the Milk book came out, it was like watching the rehabilitation of Randy Shilts. Everyone liked the book and I became politically correct again.

Look, you can do two things in journalism: You can tell people the truth or you can tell them



(Continued on page 2)

Randy Shilts (Photo: Mick Hicks)

Reporter Stirs Controversy

cont. from page 1

what they want to hear. Given a choice, most people would prefer to hear what they want to hear. They really don't want "no bad news."

For some people, the only mode for being a correct homosexual in this society is to be a political activist. Those people will never understand the difference between being a newspaper reporter and being a paid propagandist for the Gay community. The reason I get screamed at so much by such movement people is that I will not be a Gay activist. I'm a professional who chooses to be open about being Gay.

There is no way you can tell the story of AIDS (which has essentially been my last two years of reporting) without making someone mad at you. The major criticism of my AIDS writing is that I've been an alarmist and have screamed too

people who say I shouldn't be writing about AIDS. In retrospect, my only regret is that I did not scream a lot sooner and a lot louder. Any mistakes I've made have been on the side of caution.

What social changes do you see AIDS having generated within the Gay community?

Shilts: The AIDS crisis has tested all of the institutions within our community (the Gay press, the Gay political leadership) and found them wanting. It seems unfair that some of these institutions are being subjected to such stress, but as time goes on, I don't see any of them learning from it.

The Gay press is as backwards about covering AIDS as it was two years ago. Our Gay political leadership is still inept. People talk about the right to make an informed choice, but the simple fact is that most people in the Gay community are unable to make an informed

thing fun about it and, Lord knows, I did it too.

But it was a very immature and adolescent (albeit necessary) stage to go through. The sex was so available and adolescent. It should have been a means to an end. But it became an end in and of itself.

Your stand on closing the baths has caused some Gay politicians to call you the biggest homophobe in Northern California. Are you hurt when other Gay men label you as homophobic?

Shilts: Those people should go outside San Francisco and meet some of the real homophobes in Northern California!

I don't have anything moral against bathhouses. But the baths exist solely for the purpose of promiscuous sexual activity and—when you have a disease which is most certainly transmitted sexually by a single agent—a bathhouse sticks out like a very large erection. You just can't ignore the role it plays.

No other newspaper in the United States more aggressively pursued the bathhouse issue than the *San Francisco Chronicle*. It involved some very aggressive journalism, and I'm quite proud of the fact that I'm an aggressive journalist.

Although I hate to admit it, I think Dianne Feinstein was right when she said that if AIDS were an epidemic among straight people and an institution like the baths existed, they would have been closed two years ago.

Gay activists may be able to bullshit some reporter from the *Los Angeles Times* by telling him that the baths don't play any role in the AIDS epidemic. But they can't bullshit me, because I know what goes on in the bathhouses. I used to go there



On the sidelines, as he is here at an Alice meeting earlier this year, or in the spotlight, Randy Shilts is considered one of the city's most powerful Gay men. (Photo: Rink)

'The people currently running the political aspect of our movement are a bunch of jerks... Let's not kid ourselves. The local Gay political scene is a loony bin... You're not dealing with normal people—these folks are crazy.'

loudly about the problem.

Well, no matter what you write, it's going to get someone angry, and anyone in my position would get his ass kicked in unless he was a total milktost or an innocuous pussyfoot. The people most critical of my work on AIDS are politicians who spend a lot of time in the Gay movement, but who don't spend much time talking to people in an AIDS ward who actually have this terrible disease.

I am stunned that two years after I started this there are still

choice about sexual behavior unless they know someone who has had AIDS.

Once you know the reality of AIDS, that's when you realize the stark horror of it. If anything, AIDS is forcing Gays to do something which we have resisted for a long time: to start dealing with each other on an ethical basis beyond sex.

Before, everyone was spending his nights picking up one-night stands in the bars. Every man you met was weighed by his sexual status. There was some-

myself. I even had a job as a towel boy when I was working my way through college.

Lately, the bathhouses have been imbued with a political meaning by everybody from Jerry Falwell to our own Gay leaders. As such, the baths have become a sacred political issue, because people are unwilling to look at what these institutions really are. The baths are a place where it's real easy to die.

We seem to have entered an era in which people are attempting to build professional careers as openly Gay politicians. What do you think of the local Gay leadership?

Shilts: San Francisco's politics are immature, but at least we have something. This city is a great place to live if you're Gay and want to sit on the Garbage Commission, the Parks Commission, the Police Commission, or the Commission on the Status of Rabbits.

Maybe you can even aspire to becoming a member of the Board of Supervisors—a panel which has all but meaningless power.

We can't lose sight of the idealism which was once inherent in the Gay movement. What the Gay movement is all about does not have to be communicated over a bullhorn at some rowdy protest on the steps of

City Hall. There is a broader vision of the Gay community, and a lot of people do have that further vision.

But those people are not in the political leadership. The spectacle of Gay leadership in San Francisco looks like all these naked emperors walking around trying to appear clothed. The people currently running the political aspect of our movement are a bunch of jerks who wrap themselves in silly, dogmatic rhetoric.

Let's not kid ourselves. The local Gay political scene is a loony bin. This community is top-heavy with chiefs and not an awful lot of Indians. You're not dealing with normal people—these folks are crazy.

They're fighting over a little mole hill. You've got all these people scrambling for tiny little prizes while saying that this is Gay politics, that this represents the political aspirations of the Gay community.

Politicians make their careers by lying to people and telling folks what they want to hear. I personally have no doubt that when the final story on AIDS is written, an awful lot of people who are doing things solely because they perceive them to be politically popular are going to have blood on their hands. They already do.

G. Heymont

Diner Files \$250,000 Claim Against City in 'Fireman's Brawl'

The smoke still hasn't cleared from the fireman's brawl Oct. 20 at the Casa de Cristal restaurant on Post Street at Polk. William K. Moore, who was dining at the restaurant on that Saturday evening, has filed a \$250,000 claim against the city, alleging that firefighters taunted him with anti-Gay remarks, then punched him in the face repeatedly.

In his claim, Moore, who is not Gay, stated that he only acted physically to protect himself and did not attack the firefighters in any way.

The brawl began when firefighters made anti-Gay slurs to Moore and waiters, continued when they assaulted Moore and the restaurant owner, and ended with bottles flying and tables overturned.

The five firefighters have been disciplined—three with suspensions, two with formal reprimands—and charges for battery also are pending against two of them.

Also still pending is a police probe of the officers called to quell the melee. The officers refused to enter the restaurant or interview witnesses, and when taken to the nearby firehouse, refused to arrest suspects identified by Moore.

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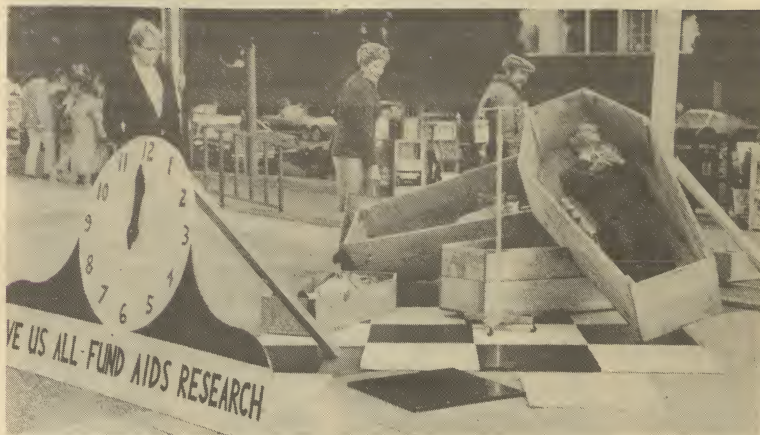
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A Stack of Coffins holding a business executive, a little girl, a homemaker, and a Gay man—all joined by a bottle of bad blood. Sculpture last week at the San Francisco Federal Building got harsh reactions from viewers. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Dummies Confront AIDS Ignorance

by Robert Pruzan

Federal Building employees, outside on the plaza at Golden Gate Avenue for a fire drill Wednesday, Nov. 15, were confronted by the work of E. Gallagher, local environmental artist: Four contemporary mannequins representing a business-person, a Gay man, a housewife, and a child, laid in pine coffins connected by transfusion apparatus to a bottle labeled "Bad Blood."

"Eighty percent of those passing by looked at it," said Gallagher. "The majority of the straight population has little idea how people get AIDS, and are therefore not interested in getting funding for its eradication. Still, there was an uproar

in the IRS offices here," he was told, "over cancelling an upcoming Thanksgiving office party potluck, when the straights said they wouldn't share food prepared by Gay employees."

Gallagher produced his one-day-only sculpture to alert the

population at large to think about the problem, how it relates to themselves, to discuss the situation, and to create a call for increased Federal funding and activity. People examined the coffins, read the timeclock and funding request, then either walked one, or stopped to discuss the issue between themselves or with the artist.

Gallagher, in preppy tie and jacket, usually did not bring attention to his personal involvement, but acted as a disinterested spectator to overhear responses.

"I've seen people cross themselves after realizing what the work represented. One woman with a Bible appeared to perform a last rites ceremony, some people have complained about the display of the cross on Federal property. Some black fundamentalist women used extremely harsh language. Most



Making His Statement. Artist Edward Gallagher conceived the macabre street-art sculptures as a way to promote more federal funding for AIDS research. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

say it's a Gay disease and a Gay problem and the Gays should solve it themselves."

Indeed, as we stood there, a young woman came up to say she was entirely unsympathetic to the situation since "the Gays started it, and the Gays have more power and financial resources than anybody in this

city."

Gallagher showed her that day's *Chronicle*, which reported that straight people are now transmitting AIDS sexually. The woman did a double-take and immediately softened her stance. "That's what it's all about," he said. ■

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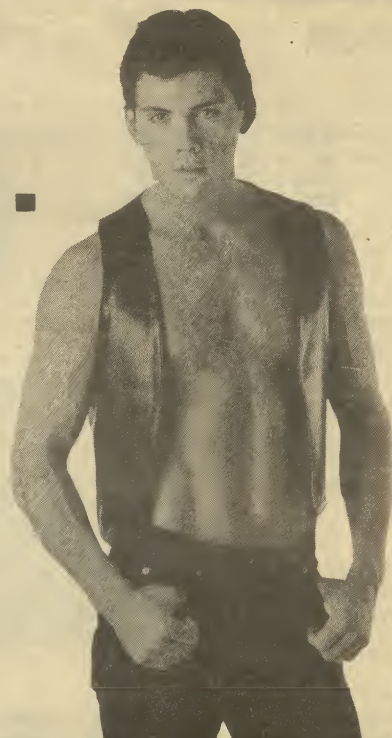
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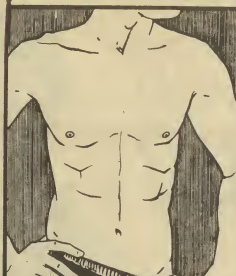
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Turning the Tide, Harvey Milk's less than 1 year in office was marked by Gay-rights repeals in other places—but in California, he led the successful effort to block the Briggs Initiative. (Photo: Rink)

Milk, Moscone March Set for Tuesday Night

For Seventh Year, Candlelight
From the Castro to City Hall

by Allen White

Tuesday night, Nov. 27, men and women will gather for the seventh time to march to City Hall in memory of Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. The march will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will commemorate the assassination of the two men in their offices on that date in 1978 by Dan White.

March organizer Cleve Jones commented, "I don't believe the story has ended. There has been renewed interest in the march with the release of the film, *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*. Many have also stated a need for the march this year to serve as a definitive reminder that in seven weeks Dan White will have completed his parole and will be free to possibly return to San Francisco and run his business at Pier 39.

This year there is to be an effort to give primary emphasis to the candlelight march. There will be music at City Hall and possibly a few remarks, but the formal plans will be minimal and speeches, if any, will be brief.

Participating groups are being encouraged to bring their organization's banners and, of course, everybody is asked to

bring a candle. Each year the symbol of the burning candles slowly moving down Market Street have become a strong statement to the memory of George Moscone and Harvey Milk.

March permits have been obtained, the Community United Against Violence will provide monitors and Space Productions will again provide the sound system at City Hall. The march is officially sponsored by the Harvey Milk Archives and this year all costs will be paid by private donations.

Supervisor Harvey Milk was the first openly Gay elected official in San Francisco. He served less than one year in office. George Moscone, elected in 1975, was respected for his involvement of minorities in the government process. As a State Senator, Moscone with Willie

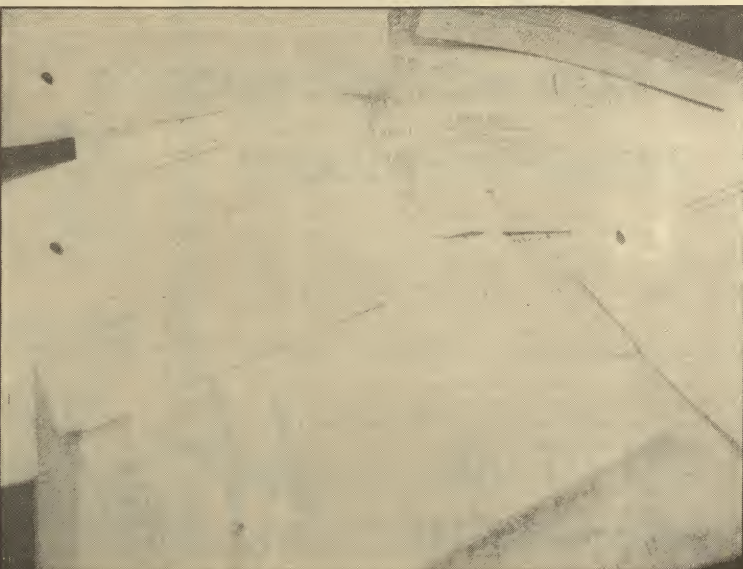
Brown and Milton Marks authored the consenting adults bill in the California State Legislature which, in effect, made being Gay legal in California.

On the morning of Nov. 27, 1978, Dan White, who had quit his supervisory position, then demanded it back, went into City Hall and assassinated both men. He successfully proved a defense of 'diminished capacity.' Since being paroled last January, Dan White has been living in Los Angeles. He has never been treated since the killings for any type of mental illness. When his parole period is completed Jan. 6, he will be free to travel anywhere—including back to San Francisco.

Cleve Jones said that though organized plans may possibly diminish in future years, "I believe there will always be friends of Harvey and George who will carry a candle from Castro to City Hall. We will never forget."

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Pockets Full of Pain. These are letters Harvey Milk carried in his pockets the day he was assassinated. His hand-writing is punctuated with holes from Dan White's bullets. (Photo: Rink)

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Anti-Gay Talk Show Fizzles on TV-20

Wally George Gets Comeuppance,
Of All Places, On the Air (of TV-5)

by Allen White

Wally George, the Southern California talk show host, proved himself the personification of the failed bigot last Friday on KPIX's "People Are Talking" program. George's homophobic show had been cancelled after less than six months on Channel 20 in San Francisco.

During the wild 45-minute segment on "People Are Talking," a key question centered on the airing of a sign displayed at a video taped rally George held in Orange County. The sign said, "KILL QUEERS."

Last Friday, Wally George bitterly attacked the KPIX show for airing the sign from the rally. George claimed he provided the station with unedited footage and he charged the station with bad taste in airing the sign. George said he had the good taste to edit the sign out of his own show and would never allow such a sign on his own show. But in fact, Wally George had aired the same segment on his own show and the sign advocating "KILL QUEERS" was not edited out. In addition to the sign, George made comments calling Gays "perverts" and telling his audience "they should go back into their closets." The management of Channel 20, which is owned by a Gay man, also felt no responsibility to delete the footage.

When asked by "People Are Talking" why the show was cancelled, 20's station manager Michael Lincoln said, "The only reason Wally George was pulled was due to low ratings." According to George, the show is syndicated by Metromedia.

The show which Channel 20 broadcast has built a reputation, especially in Southern California, as one of the most anti-Gay shows on the air. George agreed that he was cancelled here due to ratings. He said the station had such a small audience that there was literally no rating for the time period when he was scheduled. He claimed he got the station from zero to a two rating. One television marketing executive said that rating would translate to about 35,000 people. As a point of reference, two and a half times as many people read the *Bay Area Reporter* each week.

Wally George claimed he was pressured off the air by Gays in San Francisco. When pressed on the point, as the show progressed, the argument didn't seem to hold.

Pulling all the information together from the Friday show, a previous "People Are Talking" program and his own show, reveals the profile of a television bigot who has a record of failure.

He called the people who fired him at Channel 20 "lunatics" and "morons." When directly accused of being fired by the station, George claimed he was on a "brief hiatus" from the station. He also claimed he wouldn't allow the station to pick up an option to have him return. Channel 20 would not comment to the *Bay Area Reporter* regarding George or his show.

When confronted by Ross MacGowen, co-host on "People Are Talking," George said he would never come back. MacGowen then suggested George might want to leave at once. George countered that he wanted to "get my time." As his segment concluded, Wally George went into a wild flurry and stomped off the set of the show. With Ann Frasier and MacGowen howling with laughter, MacGowen summed it up by saying, "If that's not show biz, I don't know what is." ■



Wally George

Donations Give New Life to Local Hospice Program

Hospice of San Francisco has survived this past summer's well-publicized financial crisis, Executive Director Hadley Hall announced today. Hospice's financial problems, caused by inadequate funding for the care it provides to terminally ill patients in their homes, were the subjects of numerous newspaper articles, editorials and television and radio broadcasts in August and September.

However, the dramatic public response to the agency's public plea for support, combined with other successful fundraising activities, have given Hospice adequate financial reserves to start long-range funding measures to help sustain the agency in 1985, Hall said.

Hospice of San Francisco's financial crisis had been precipitated by a number of causes, including a threat by Medicare to reduce or withhold its reimbursement to Hospice, and an increase in patients with little or no health insurance coverage—including terminally ill patients with AIDS. However, these problems reflect the financial crunch now hitting many community-based home care and hospice programs, Hall said.

The fund drive in August, September and October raised over \$150,000 from the community—more than \$20,000 coming directly in response to media coverage. However, the program has an ongoing need to raise \$27,000 each month in order to keep its full service program in operation. These services include training, supervision and support for patient care volunteers; a comprehensive network of professional and volunteer bereavement support for the survivors of hospice patients; and the coverage of paraprofessional homemakers to provide care for patients too sick to care for themselves. ■

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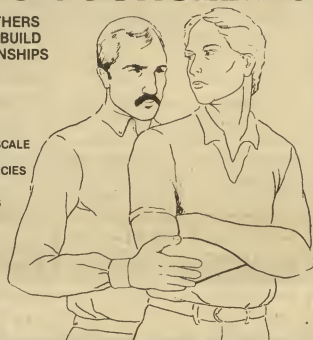
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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

The Limits of Reaganism

Last week we gazed into the crystal ball set aglimmering by the results of the Nov. 6 election. We found ourselves peering instead into the mirror from *Alice Beyond the Looking Glass*. On Nov. 6, we elected a president who is the biggest deficit-spender in the history of the republic; who promised to oppose any cutbacks in social security and medicare; and who pledged to meet the Russians and negotiate reductions—not just limits—in the number of nuclear weapons.

Gosh golly! as Hubert Humphrey might have said. Did someone revive Jack Kennedy? Is Harry Truman again calling the tune at the White House?

No. But in many ways, they might as well be. In several essential ways, the Reagan presidency may as well be headed by a Missouri Democrat.

To understand why, we need to examine the two parts of the Reagan presidency. There is Reagan the man. Then there is Reaganism, the movement. They are related, but they are distinct, and the distinction is important.

We cannot defeat Reagan the man. We can defeat Reaganism. We have done so on several issues in the past four years, and we will continue to do so in the next four. The key to success is in understanding the limits of Reaganism.

Reaganism is essentially a reaction against, not a crusade for, certain social and political goals. It is a classic reactionary response to a period of great change. Reaganites are against equal rights for Gays, women and minorities. They are against governmental regulation of business, especially regarding the environment. They are against detente—believing we can bluster and bully the Soviet Union into doing our bidding.

Several features of this agenda stand out. The first is that, unquestionably, it is a minority position among the American people. Most Americans favor the ERA. Most Americans support anti-pollution efforts. Most Americans favor talks, not troops in dealing with foreign policy problems.

Secondly, the implausibility of the Reaganite agenda seems obvious. The time is past when America can force other nations to do its will with troops, tanks and guns. Vietnam proved that lesson. It is not sensible to suppose that women will go back into the kitchen or Gays to the closet. Blacks may be denied equal opportunity, but no longer will they accept such a state of affairs. Industries may seek to resume dumping waste into the air and water, but its citizen neighbors have come too far to accept such spoilage.

Reaganism seeks to turn back the clock, but time moves in only one direction.

The third feature of Reaganism provides the means by which we will defeat it. Reaganism has an image of negativism, and is full of people who are against things. Here, the distinction between Reagan the man and Reaganism the movement is most dramatic. Reagan seems nice. His movement seems mean.

It is possible to focus on the mean-spiritedness of Reaganism and overcome Reagan the president. One example: Congress' rebuff to the Administration on AIDS funding. Reagan asked for \$54 million; Congress assailed the Administration and passed \$93 million. The Administration came off looking like a group of cynics who cared more about cutting budgets than saving lives.

Our task is to focus positive energy on our social and political goals. In so doing, nasty rhetoric focused on Reagan the man does no good. A better tactic will be to leave the politics of bitterness to the Reaganites. One issue at a time, we will block the advance of Reaganism, until history itself causes this reactionary movement to crumble.

Brian Jones

Moralistic Judgement

★ The recent closing of the baths appears to be a moralistic judgment that the conduct shouldn't be allowed to continue. There is no proof that the conduct is hazardous to one's health.

It happens to be a futile move because Mare Feinstein does not run Alameda County and the Steam Works in Berkeley is crawling with men whose faces I used to see in the two baths I frequented in San Francisco. It is a bit more of a journey, but the end result is the same. SEX. With clean men, with a private room. Better than bookstores!

Bob Wormser
San Francisco

Packing 'Em In

★ What a shame that they closed the baths in San Francisco but how delightful that now the Steamworks in Berkeley is packing our brothers in from San Francisco like crazy. Thank God that AIDS is only contracted at the baths in San Francisco and not in Berkeley or San Jose. Boy-O-Boy are the Berkeley folks lucky.

Minnie the Mermaid
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: Apparently there are still those who don't believe in AIDS. There are still those who believe in a flat earth too.

Let us repeat: AIDS is caused by a virus. That virus is transmitted through sex which involves the exchange of body fluids. These are no longer theories. These are proven facts.

We know that HTLV-III virus causes AIDS. Virus introduced into people with none of the usual risk factors, through accidents involving blood transfusions, have caused AIDS in several of those people. This is direct proof that AIDS is caused by a virus, and that the virus is HTLV-III.

The virus is sexually transmissible. Live virus has been cultured from body fluids including blood, semen and saliva. Epidemiological research has shown statistically significant correlations between specific sex acts (especially receptive anal sex) and risk for AIDS. This is direct proof that AIDS is sexually transmissible.

So, if you are going to have sex which involves the exchange of body fluids, do so knowing this: You expose yourself, and your partner, to the risk of contracting AIDS.

No organization has fought the closure of bathhouses more vigorously than this newspaper; we believe it is a policy which won't work and which violates rights. But let us be clear: sex-as-usual is a deadly option.

Brian Jones

Misguided

★ The actions of Dr. Silverman, the City of San Francisco and others in closing the bathhouses were misguided. Their actions fed the flames of homophobia and hysteria. Though we are told of the agonizing days, weeks and months of deliberations, history appeared to have played little if any role in these all important deliberations. This is most tragic and unfortunate.

Though I feel all involved are good people, caring people, their actions are sadly indicative of those who closed my friend Jerry Tanaka's family grocery store and placed him and family in Japanese internment camps in Wyoming; and those who closed my friend Henry Weintraub's wife's family tailor shop in Poland and placed them in the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen; and those who supported the closing of the

University of Alabama to Blacks; and those who closed Neighborhood Legal Services Centers (Godsakes the poor were winning in the courts!)

On my brother's gravestone—he's dying of AIDS—I will mention neither his AIDS nor the bathhouses. I may simply state: "Here lies the victim of human rights and federal funding closure."

Closing the bathhouses to prevent sex between humans, like the Surgeon General's warning on cigarette packs, is an idea which will go up in smoke. As a mental health professional I am convinced that the answer lies in "Safe Sex Practices Education Programs," and more federal funding to fight AIDS.

Any closures involving human rights should be a red flag, a bellwether for oppressed minority groups out-of-favor, the bell will toll for next. Inevitably, as history has shown, I am convinced, the bell will toll for thee.

J. Davis Mannino
San Francisco

Spirit of Harvey

★ Run! Don't walk to the next screening of The Times of Harvey Milk at the Lumiere. In these dismal times of AIDS-hysteria as never before do we need to (re)experience the spirit of Gay San Francisco during the times of Harvey Milk. Harvey advocated coming out of the closet, and I would like to reiterate his plea today despite the very changed atmosphere throughout Gay America. What would Harvey have to say about AIDS and the bathhouse closure? He'd say, "Open them up!" This is clearly a civil rights violation and not a health issue. Let's further investigate the effects that drug abuse and multiple dosages of antibiotics have on the immune system, and stop blaming homosexuals for their sexual practices as the key to developing AIDS.

Dis-ease knows no sexual preference. It is not logical that heterosexuals, some of whom perform the same sexual acts as Gay men, should not also be developing symptoms of AIDS in proportionate numbers. Or are they? Are the Centers for Disease Control withholding information, lying through statistics? Did you know that James Mason, the head of the CDC, was appointed by Reagan? And did you know that Mason was the former head of the Mormon Church's health care program and supervised the aversion therapy program to "cure" Gay men of their homosexuality?

It is time to stop sitting back and accepting everything that the government and the medical profession is telling us as the "truth." We must end this time of apathy and unite as never before. And we thought the Briggs Initiative was a threat. We are dying now, brothers and sisters, and we are experiencing the beginning of the end of the modern Gay/Lesbian movement with the closure of the bathhouses, a convenient violation of our civil rights, since the Gay community itself stands divided on this issue. What will be next? Some suggest that it will be the bars. I am not sure, but already much is lost in San Francisco.

Radical? Perhaps, but so was Harvey Milk.

Robert Villacari
San Francisco

Letter Policy

★ The Bay Area Reporter welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters must be signed; anonymous letters will not be published. Please include your mailing address and telephone number so we may verify your letter — this information will not be published.

In order to print as many views as possible, we ask letter writers to be brief. To promote diversity in the Open Forum, we favor letters from writers who do not appear frequently, over repeated correspondence from a single author.

B.A.R.

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LETTERS

Dear Marcus

★ It seems that in this "Gay Community" even one's minor actions will garner the unsolicited opinions of others. The depth of peer pressure is vaguely reminiscent of pubescent high school days. But in response to a horde of questions regarding certain comments in your last column, I can admit with absolute certainty that I was not Toad out of the Eagle one Sunday evening by the likes of Mattress Marcus.

Russ Godwin
San Francisco

Skewed Statistics

The following was written to the editor of *Newsweek*.

★ Your story on Gay business, "The Profit in Being Gay" (November 12), errs in its use of statistics. To compare the median income of all the nation's households with that of the readers of *The Advocate* can only result in conclusions about readers of *The Advocate*, not about the total Gay and Lesbian community.

The demographics of readers of *The Advocate*, developed for the purpose of selling advertising, are heavily skewed, based on an upscale, urban, white, male population. Omitted from consideration are Gay women, people of color, and small town and rural Gays.

Even Peter Frisch, until recently publisher of *The Advocate*, agrees with the viewpoint that a truly national cross-sectional study of Lesbians and Gays would result in a picture of a community about as average as any in terms of income, education, employment, and most consumer spending patterns.

Unfortunately, such a study appears to be impracticable at this time due to the difficulties of surveying a mostly closeted population, and, of course, results that are average don't make news.

Arthur S. Lazere
San Francisco

Unfair to Feinstein

★ Regardless of one's opinion about the closing of the bathhouses in San Francisco, your continued negative potshots at Mayor Feinstein, as reflected in the Nov. 8 front-page subheadline and illustration, are unwarranted, unfounded, and simply unfair.

The article itself deals with the timing of the latest release of AIDS funding only briefly, and the delay charge is never substantiated. So, the headline and the nasty little dollar bill illustration are irrelevant and superfluous—except that they clearly are calculated to discredit the Mayor on an occasion when the Gay community properly ought to be expressing its appreciation.

The fact is—the story was—that Dianne Feinstein once again had come through with additional needed AIDS funding. The fact is that no other mayor of any American city has put up millions of dollars of local tax dollars, not to mention turned its public health efforts and hospital facilities inside out, to address our public health problem. This year alone, San Francisco has committed \$7.6 million in local funding; by comparison, New York City, with the highest number of AIDS cases in the nation has spent \$40,000.

The fact is that Mayor Feinstein has done more for the Gay community than any other elected official in America.

As for the bathhouses, the fact is that it is that same concern about our public health that lead the mayor in good conscience to support the closing. Whether or not one agrees with her decision, the fact is that a large segment of the Gay community, not as vocal and vociferous as reactionary factions who pontificate in "Letters to the Editors" of Gay newspapers, also support and even promoted closing the baths, and this group includes some self-styled "progressive community leaders."

Moreover, I am concerned that *Bay Area Reporter* is promoting an unfair editorial campaign in its news pages, generating negative feelings without proper justification. Instead of helping to create a more enlightened, sophisticated political community, you are pandering to the kind of clone Gay reactionary who hisses on cue when Dianne Feinstein appears in the newly released Harvey Milk film, is silent when Harry Britt—who also supported closing the baths—appears, and, after the film is over, can't coherently explain his/her reaction to either.

The Gay community can't have it both ways, proclaiming its own political clout when AIDS funding, new hospital facilities, et. al. are forthcoming—and then claiming political impotency when it comes to the bathhouses. The fact is that Mayor Feinstein, unlike some publicity-grabbing dilettante dabblers in Gay community affairs, has done something about our health problems because of her deep, true feelings for us and our community, and she justly deserves our praise and thanks, instead of *Bay Area Reporter's* ridicule. I, for one, am proud that she is our mayor.

Billy Gaylord
San Francisco

Deportation Case

★ Do you feel safe loving a Gay person in America? We did.

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attempt to break us up. But in the eyes of the government our relationships don't mean a damn thing!

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This case has personally cost us close to \$30,000 and has wiped out our assets. We've done everything we can do.

Now there's something you can do! We need money to fight to the very end. Please send whatever you can to: Anthony Sullivan Defense Fund, c/o MCC, Attention: Frank Zerilli, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd. #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

The law can be changed if your voice is heard. Write to your representatives in Washington, urging them to change immigration laws that discriminate against Gays and Lesbians.

Tony Sullivan
Los Angeles

South Africa

★ I am appalled. You have finally managed to accept an advertisement lower than that of Steve Perkins'. I'm referring to the ad in your issue #45, page seven, for a South African tour: "A Very Special Tour for Very Special People" placed by Fred Apple, Siemer and Hand Travel Agency. For a paper that prides itself in its role of fighting for the human rights of homosexual people, to run and accept revenue for such an obviously racist ad as this, is totally unbelievable; especially in light of the editorial position you took on Prop. J. I find this kind of double standard completely unacceptable—shame on you!

Conor Ryan
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: It is our understanding that we have no legal right to refuse ads because we politically disagree with their message—as we do in this case.

Brian Jones

Stop the Anti-Sex Campaign

★ The Committee to Preserve Our Sexual and Civil Liberties specifically addresses the civil liberties implications of the bathhouse closures. For example, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, with the exception of Supervisors Quentin Kopp and Richard Hongisto, voted to approve after-the-fact funding of Dr. Silverman's secret sex detectives, in blatant disregard of the privacy rights of Gay and bisexual citizens, as well as ignoring their legislative oversight duties in the *post facto* approval of an operation designed to avoid public scrutiny.

It is the opinion of the Committee that Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people face a very serious multifront reaction to the great gains our community has made in the last ten years. Our rights to privacy, patient confidentiality, free association, and to private sexual behavior between consenting adults are under heavy attack! At the same time as the AIDS tragedy is hitting our bodies, the Feinstein anti-sex campaign is attacking our emotional health.

We are not sick, compulsive deviants. We are Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People, and we are proud of ourselves and our sexualities. And we are angry.

Vince Quackenbush
Committee to Preserve Our
Sexual and Civil Liberties

He Who Pays the Piper

★ Three readers wrote strongly stated letters to *Bay Area Reporter* (Nov. 15) wondering why you endorsed Kopp. I wondered too, until I checked out (again) who publishes *B.A.R.*

As long as *B.A.R.* continues to keep its readers fully and fairly informed about what's going on in the political arena in San Francisco, to ask for more may be to ask for too much. It is a fact of life that those who control purse strings also wish to express themselves.

A further example of that pragmatic truism may be found in Feinstein's insistence that the baths be closed. For while it's an astute observation—made by "Alice"—that moralists (i.e. Falwell and our mayor) would have their ideas of what's moral be everybody else's, it seems self-evident that when Feinstein thinks of AIDS she also thinks of money.

Hasn't she always congratulated herself on her "managerial" capacities?

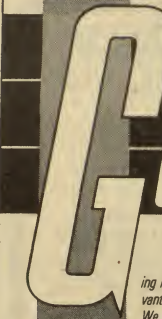
John D. Dolan
San Francisco

Boquet

★ So many times I have tried to brave pen and let you know that I really enjoy our Thursday afternoon meeting outside Bon Appetit on Jackson Street.

Thank you for being there when I need you. A good friend is hard to come by.

Morris McAtteer
San Francisco



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LETTERS

Comeback Queen

★ What makes Elizabeth Taylor so popular after all these years?

The lavender-eyed "Long Live Liz" t-shirt is selling out in the Castro shops. Symbolically, Liz seems to represent the Gay movement itself. Like Liz, we as a people have had glorious career highs and seemingly insurmountable lows. Like Liz, we pull it together every once in a while with the grace of a great lady. The AIDS crisis seems to have put a stall in this great lady's lavender career. It's time we pull it together and show the world what a tough old girl we are, perhaps down, but certainly not out.

"Long Live Liz!"

Samantha
San Francisco

The Enemy

★ While the Feinstein-Britt-Silverman team are basking in the glory of their successful *coup de grace* over the remnants of the Gay movement, many in the Gay community are divided over whether we should have the right to have sex. Perhaps it is time to get back to our roots.

The very heart of the words "Gay movement" is the right to exercise a homosexual orientation. Those who would deny us that right are anti-Gay bigots, and it doesn't matter whether they call themselves Gay. There shouldn't be talk of division in the Gay movement; by definition you are either part of it or not; you believe in sexual freedom or not.

As for me, I want to see at least one good thing come out of this fiasco; separate the wheat from the chaff. Uncle Toms must be resolutely rejected. "Extremism in the pursuit of liberty is no vice," so said a famous conservative.

Those who favor abolition of our Gay sexual expression are the enemy, make no mistake about it! They are in many ways worse than straight bigots, as they attack us from within. I implore all thinking Gay people; know thy enemy. Look within yourselves and your acquaintances. We don't have to tolerate anti-Gay bigotry in the streets and we especially don't have to tolerate it in our homes, jobs, bars, restaurants or parties.

By closing the baths, we have suffered a major defeat. But to go along with it, to fail to recognize the enemy within is to sign the death warrant of the Gay movement just as surely as lining up for the trains to Auschwitz.

Eric Scheie
Berkeley

ED. NOTE: In our opinion, Gay people who support closing the baths are not "the enemy"—although we oppose their efforts. We are all seeking to find the best strategy for saving lives and preserving civil rights.

The enemy is AIDS.

Brian Jones

Misconception

★ Re: "Out of the Closet," by Charles Linebarger; Nov. 8, 1984 issue.

The above article about an exhibition by Lesbian and Gay photographers contained some misleading statements.

Frameline is not the parent organization of Underexposed, nor does the annual San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival have any connection whatsoever with the photographic exhibition. I am at a loss to explain how Mr. Linebarger got such an impression inasmuch as no member of the Frameline Board of Directors had any contact with him.

Frameline extends its best wishes to the photographers involved. We hope that their work will be recognized on its own merits and not through an implied association with the Film Festival.

Laura J. Sanden, President
Frameline
San Francisco

Street Snottiness

★ In his letter of Nov. 8, David Kaye's reference to *derelects* (emphasis added) from all over town eating pizza and throwing trash all over the street, then sleeping all over Harvey Milk Plaza, is one that reveals an attitude that snacks of elitist prejudice.

I would like to say something to Mr. Kaye and those who share his feelings toward street people.

As a Gay man who has until very recently spent much time on the streets here, I have been the recipient of much snottiness from my alleged "own kind" who are better off materially—not for panhandling, which I don't do, but for simply being a pack-toting, slightly scruffy long-hair on "their" streets.

For an historically-oppressed group to be so free with stares, sneers, verbal abuse, and orders to "get moving" is inappropriate at best and downright hypocritical at worst.

Mr. Kaye, the "derelects" are persons like yourself, with just as much right to exist in the city as you have. Many Gay people like yourself who came to San Francisco from elsewhere (including my lover) started their lives in this "Gay Mecca" as street people.

The bourgeois superiority trip which some members of the Gay community display toward street people (such as the Haight Street merchant who ordered me off the sidewalk in front of his store—on a public street!) is inexcusable and says much for those persons' mentality.

Perhaps our "community" is more Reaganized than it cares to admit.

Richard Isabell
San Francisco

Pier Pressure Rave

★ Men Behind Bars Productions should be commended on their recent Mega-Party productions of "Pier Pressure." We were wondering when someone was going to wise up and give the supporters of these parties a good reason to go to another one. Finally a DJ who knew what his audience wanted and a bar that was accessible and more than reasonable to say the least. Room to dance beyond your imagination and more energy under one roof than a nuclear power plant.

It was also great to see some imagination for a change in some entertainment for the night instead of another tired disco artist. Atmosphere certainly plays a large part of the success of any event, and Pier 45 was exceptional. Imagine all that for only \$8!

David McParland
Bob Wood
San Francisco

Politics and Ghoster?

★ Re Wayne Friday's "Politics and Poker," *Bay Area Reporter*, Nov. 15, 1984:

To those in the know, like yours truly, it is an undeniable fact that political writer Gerry Parker is the person who writes all of Wayne Friday's columns. With all due respect to Mr. Parker, Friday's asinine and smug assumption that "the Republican Party is fast becoming the majority party in America" ("Election Post-Mortem"), comes across as utterly laughable and totally devoid of any credibility, and therefore, not worthy of comment.

Friday's desperate attempts at appearing as a politically savvy (perhaps "informed word-peddler") would be more appropriate, have always struck me as hysterical and never to be taken seriously.

Friday would do well to make an effort to learn something about professional journalism. Moreover, Friday should not let a ghost writer do the work for him. *B.A.R.* readers are much too intelligent and can see through Friday's phony "opinionated and seemingly 'intellectual,' political drivel.

Ed Dollak
San Francisco

Brutal Censorship

★ The election on the national level was a foregone conclusion. Another foregone conclusion was something like the event of police smashing news media's lights and cameras. This brutal censorship didn't have anything to do with the San Francisco appearance of Defense Secretary Weinberger or the accompanying protests. Nor were the election results to blame. The police statement that the lights got in their eyes is not valid. In my opinion, the failure of the Office of Citizens Complaints and the subsequent seizure of power over that function by the Police Commission is the cause. I would hope that Jo Daly would not overlook this important issue in her forthcoming response to the *Bay Area Reporter* concerning a critical article of her in same.

Jimmie Carrier
San Francisco

Thanks, CUAV

★ Wednesday night, Halloween, as I stood in the crowd on Castro Street, I watched the monitors from the Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and I was impressed. These men and women handled the crowd effectively and efficiently. They appeared to be a very concerned, compassionate, and caring group.

In this time when the Gay community is suffering multiple attacks from politicians and the public alike who claim we are irresponsible, it is a pleasure to see this group. I think they represent a responsible, active, and concerned segment of our subculture. The Gay community should be proud of this group and the work they do.

Stephen Tanner
San Francisco

Eggs Won't be the Same

★ I read sadly of the passing of Edie Massey, the Egg Lady of the infamous film *Pink Flamingoes*. She brought joy and many a smile from just the sound of her voice. Those smoothies who sneered at her grotesqueness, or used her to make big bucks on their cards, missed the point. Edie evidenced a childlike wonder at herself. And her beauty was that she coaxed us to laugh not at her, but *along* with her at the absurdity in life.

We'll miss you lots, but the best of Sunnyside Up to ya, Edie!

Kevin Bern
San Francisco



POLITICS AND POKER

Gays Showed Power, Did Well Nov. 6

WAYNE FRIDAY

Now that the dust has settled and all the results are in from the Nov. 6 election it might be interesting to take a look at how the Gay and Lesbian community fared in the returns. On the national level, the nation's only openly Gay member of Congress, Massachusetts' Gerry Studds, easily won re-election in that state's 10th District, despite the fact his Republican opponent went out of his way to remind the voters that Studds had been censured by the House for having an affair with a teenage House page nearly 11 years ago.

Some think the results in that election could possibly encourage a couple of the closet cases in the House to be less concerned about their hidden homosexuality, but only time will tell. One Washington insider tells us there is at least one closet Gay in the Senate and as many as 10 in the House.

Few other known Gays were up for election this month, but in Minnesota, State Rep. Karen Clark, a Lesbian, won re-election easily.

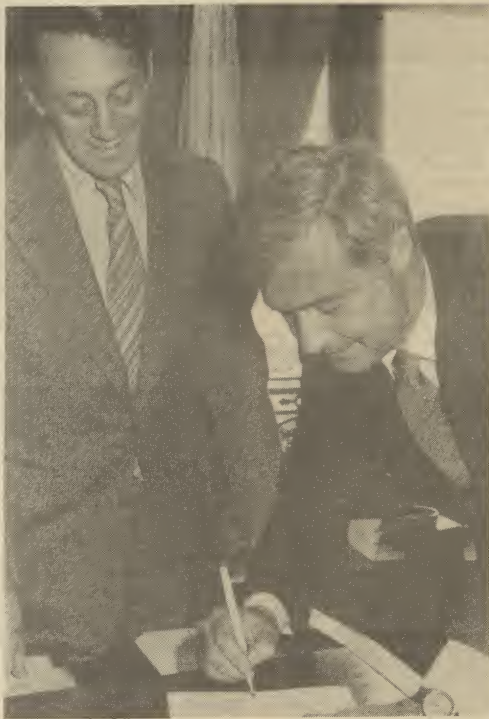
In congressional races where Gay support was important, Rep. Paul Simon, a Democrat, defeated veteran U.S. Senator Charles Percy in Illinois, and Simon publicly gave credit to Gays for helping him win that close contest. Senator Roger Jepsen, a Republican who was the chief sponsor of the Family Protection Act, was defeated in Iowa for re-election by liberal Rep. Tom Harkin.

The defeat of the anti-Gay Jepsen was offset in Texas where conservative Democrat-turned-Republican Phil Gramm defeated liberal Democrat Lloyd Doggett in a contest where support for Doggett by Gays became an issue.

In Massachusetts Republican Ray Shamie, supported heavily by the New Right, lost to Democrat Lt. Governor John Kerry for the open U.S. Senate seat created by the retirement of Democrat Paul Tsongas. Overall, the Republicans gained 14 House seats, but not necessarily the ones targeted for wins by the New Right. In fact, of the 76 co-sponsors of the House Gay rights bill (HR 2624), all but two were re-elected, giving hope to the probability that in the new congress there will be less hesitancy for new members to endorse the legislation.

Voters in West Hollywood, a new city of 35,000 residents, voted to become a separate city and the main issues there were rent control and Gay rights. Valerie Terrigno, a Lesbian social worker, led the voting for city council and will undoubtedly become the city's first mayor. Two Gay men, John Heilman, an attorney, and Steve Schulte, a community services consultant, were elected with Terrigno, to give the Gay community control of the new city's five-person City Council.

Locally, the consensus is that the Gay community did pretty well. Incumbent Supervisor Harry Britt easily won re-election, polling over 132,000 votes and finishing a strong fourth, only about 3,000 votes behind veteran Supervisor Quentin Kopp. Britt did especially well in the Castro, Noe Valley, the Haight, Potrero Valley and other parts of the 16th Assembly district, a fact that could be important in Britt's political future.



Milk Moscone Memorial candlelight march begins Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Harvey Milk Plaza, above the Muni station at 17th and Castro Streets.

It is well known that the Supervisor is looking ahead to a possible run for the Assembly should Art Agnos ever give up that seat. This is the second time that Britt originally appointed to the Board, has won a citywide election.

Community College Board member Tim Wolfred also won a citywide election for the second time, finishing third among a field of eight candidates with 129,000 votes, some 20,000 votes behind front-runner Julie Tang.

Pat Norman, a Lesbian candidate for Supervisor, received a respectable 54,000 votes in her first elective attempt, finishing ninth with six candidates elected. Dave Wharton, a Gay attorney who ran for supervisor two years ago, polled nearly 49,000 votes, placing tenth behind Norman, and another upfront Gay candidate, John Wahl, practically unknown in San Francisco politics, finished thirteenth with 23,000 votes in a field of twenty-nine candidates.

While losing, Norman, Wharton, and Wahl all made respectable showings in a contest where big money played a part in being successful. In addition, most political observers will tell you that Quentin Kopp's anti-Gay statements made in July to the *New York Times*, and the subsequent anti-Kopp campaign that was waged in the Gay community, played a major part in the surprisingly poor third-place finish of the veteran supervisor.

Many had expected Kopp to be the top supervisory vote-getter and become the new president of the board, but that position was won by John Molinari, who had strong Gay and Lesbian support. Molinari won the endorsement of all three Gay Democratic clubs and the city's Gay Republican club, while none of these organizations backed Kopp.

A check of predominantly Gay precincts showed Molinari doing well with little support for his rival Kopp among Gays. In

one Castro area precinct where Supervisor Kopp ran fourth four years ago, he placed eighth this time. In yet another precinct, in the Polk Area, he dropped from fourth place four years ago to ninth this year. Even Jack Davis, Kopp's campaign manager, told me this week that the anti-Kopp effort among Gays played the major part of his candidate's poor third place finish, a result that some think may put an end to Quentin Kopp's long-time desire to be mayor. Clearly, the Gay and Lesbian community has become a powerful force in San Francisco politics—a force strong enough to make the difference in any election.

The 7th Annual Candlelight March marking the anniversary of the 1978 slayings of Harvey Milk and George Moscone will begin at Market and Castro at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27. Organizers say that the program at City Hall will be very brief this year with no speeches; bring a candle and I'll see you there. In New York, a State Supreme Court justice last week upheld a NYC Board of Estimate resolution that bans discrimination against Gays in hiring by social-service agencies that do business with New York City. Judge David Saxe decided against the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York and the Salvation Army, which had contended in a lawsuit that the board's action was an illegal exercise of legislative power. Meanwhile, the private agencies have signed new contracts with the city, although their lawyers disagreed over the significance of the decision. Judge Saxe found the the board's action was only "within the realm of authority" of the board and was in accordance with the equal protection clauses of the United States and New York State Constitution. CRIR prexy Tom Peretti featured, photo and all, in the current *People* magazine in a

cont. on next page

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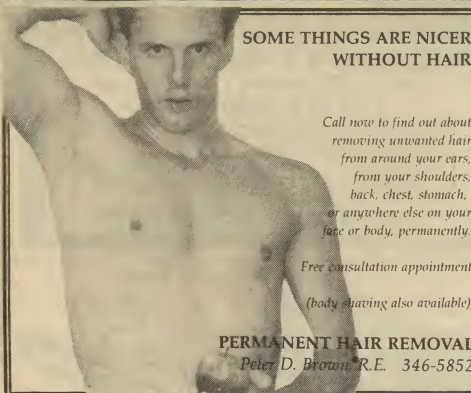
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POLITICS

cont. from previous page

10-page story on the Reagan landslide: "I didn't choose to be gay, but I chose to be a Republican"

★ ★ ★

S.F. public health director Merv Silverman has been elected president of the U.S. Conference of Local Health Officers, an arm of the U.S. Conference of Mayors that concentrates on helping to ensure that the health care needs of U.S. citizens are met ... When City Council member-elect Judy Stabile takes office, the new make-up of the San Jose City Council will show women holding 8 of the 11 council seats ... In Sacramento, state officials last week approved a \$24,714 settlement in the case of ex-prison guard Gerald LaFevre, who charged harassment on the job because he is gay ... And in Honolulu, a state judge recently refused to stop the scheduled opening of a female impersonator's revue at the leased Westin Ilikai Hotel showroom; the hotel protested that the show could hurt their business ... In L.A. they say the romance between former guv Jerry Brown and photographer Pam Wong looks like the real thing ... And don't be surprised at all if actor Charlton Heston who campaigned hard for Republican candidates (he raised megabucks for Jesse Helms) decides to make a run for Alan Cranston's senate seat; Reagan and his friends are twisting Heston's arm hard.

★ ★ ★

What did the Ferraro nomination really mean? More and more Monday-morning quarterbacks who watch politics are beginning to say it was a mistake for Walter Mondale to have chosen Ferraro. The Ferraro candidacy will make it much easier for women to be considered for all offices—but did she gain the Democrats any votes? One well-known Democratic party leader complained the women's groups, particularly NOW, forced Mondale to choose a woman, then couldn't deliver the promised votes in November.

A member of Mondale's inner circle complained bitterly this week that "... the party got a gun put to its head by the women to choose a woman for vice president, and then they over-promised what they could not deliver: the sweep of the women's vote, millions of unregistered women voters, and millions of volunteers; the truth of the matter is they didn't bring in anything. After this performance, I don't think the women should come running up to the table demanding more very soon."

Frank Mankiewicz, a Democratic political consultant closely identified with the Kennedy family, added to the complaints, saying "In the older days of politics, the worst thing you could say about a man was that he couldn't deliver his wife. Well these people can't deliver their sisters." Mankiewicz, noting that Reagan received 55 percent of the women's vote, said, "Anybody who can get a majority among women as the president did without ever going to the NOW convention—there's got to be a lesson there. How can the feminists deliver the women's vote when they themselves are remote from the women's vote? Look at them, listen to them, they are not talking like most American women are talking."

Funeral for a Friend: Teen's Polk St. Memorial

**Larry 'Ozzie' Gaines is Eulogized
As Future of Youth Center Brightens**

by Allen White

Almost two dozen people gathered Friday night, Nov. 16 at the Larkin Street Youth Center to remember Larry Gaines at a memorial service. Gaines was brutally murdered May 13. He would have been 18 had he lived six more weeks.

The setting was an informal area filled with old sofas and chairs in a rear lounge of the center. On an old coffee table was placed a floral decoration and two burning red candles. Most of the people in the room were people from the street who knew Larry Gaines.

Wayne Smith, Gaines' roommate at the time he was murdered, was there, as was Gaines' father Dennis Gaines with his wife, Martha. The 20-minute service was conducted by Rev. James Sandmire, the Pastor of Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church.

Sandmire proved his wisdom as a minister as he gently talked to the people, many less than 18, about the reality of death. "The best memorial you can do for your friend," he said, "is to do something in your day for Larry that will make the world just a little better."

Wayne Smith talked about Gaines. Larry used to say, Smith said, "When I get to be 18, I'm going to get my shit together." Smith continued, "I believe he meant it as a goal and he missed that goal by only six weeks. For Larry, to be 18 was his rabbit in a hat."

Though the mood was serious, there were no tears. Rev. Sandmire ended the service with a moment of silence and then asked those who wished to join him in praying "The Lord's Prayer."

Dennis Gaines had earlier attended a service for his son in

Sacramento. At the center, he obviously was in a strange environment. Yet, the father commented that he felt the service at the center was much more significant in the memory of his son than the more formal service in Sacramento.

As the service concluded, the conversation moved to the only positive comments possible, the future of the center. Through the efforts of Supervisor Louise Renne, chair of the Finance Committee, there appears to now have been sufficient money found in the city budget to assure that the center will remain open. Larry Gaines had been to the center and apparently it served as a form of foundation in his life.

Gaines was the victim, not the creator, of the violence which ended his life. Word has begun to spread in the Polk Street area about the general details of Gaines' death. The specific gory details will no doubt become public as the defendants are moved through the justice system.

Just a few weeks earlier services were held at the center for another young person, Ted Gomez, who also was murdered and who came to the Larkin Street Youth Center. With the death of Gomez and Gaines, efforts have been intensified throughout the Polk Street area to provide any help possible for homeless young people who hustle drugs or sex in an effort to survive.

GAY DAY KISS

cont. from page 1

partment for almost five months. Management Control, which is the new name for Internal Affairs, will not comment on the case.

Lt. Thorsen, Seidler's boss, said it's something he can't talk about because it is a personal matter. Lt. Alexander Stevens in the legal department won't talk because he says it would be unfair to the officer.

Equally as mysterious are the actual charges. Officer Paul Seidler has never, through this entire matter, seen or had the fellow officers who are his accusers identified to him. He says he has also never had an opportunity to read the actual accusations made against him.

The Fire Department was able to discipline five officers in one week following a Polk Street restaurant incident. Asked why it was taking so much time to clear this incident against Seidler, Stevens pointed to the huge number of cases against police officers. Stevens said the police have such a huge backlog against officers that they are now scheduling hearings into February of 1985, almost four months from now.

One person who would talk is Jane Murphy. She was a police commissioner before getting booted off at the beginning of the year. She has never been timid about saying what she thinks and this is no exception.

"It is absolutely ridiculous," she said. "Did you see the TV show they did last week on all the problems in the police department?" She said referring to a KQED special aired twice last week which included the "kiss footage."

"To make a big deal out of this is absurd! Paul Seidler is an outstanding police officer and this is just a tempest in a teapot," said the former police commissioner. Seidler has been lauded across the country for his work in bridging the relations between the Gay community and the police.

Paul Seidler has been an officer in the San Francisco Police Department for 17 years. In that time he has received one verbal reprimand for misfiring a firearm in a police vehicle, and three complaints in the traffic detail, which were not sustained.

An important component in this complaint is the fact that officers have on many occasions been photographed kissing women, whether it be their wives or a casual kiss on St. Patrick's Day.

Regardless of the complaint about size being an indicator of who kisses whom, Jane Murphy had her own personal graphic comment. "Let me tell you," she said, "my husband was six feet two and I'm five feet eight and I want you to know I kissed him a lot of times."

W. Friday



AIDS Health Project psychiatric consultant, Peter Goldblum. (Photo: Rink)

AIDS Health Project: Fighting the Epidemic

Assessing Personal Health and Pointing the Way to Lower Risk

by Charles Lineberger

The AIDS Health Project, in business since March, wants to show Gay men how to cope with—and fight—the AIDS epidemic. The project is to sexual risk behavior what a "stop smoking" clinic is for a two-pack-a-day puffer. The health project will assess the risk in your life and help you figure out what changes you can make to stay healthy.

The project is a joint effort of the city and the University of California-San Francisco. They got together in January to plan and finance the program, and services opened three months later.

The *Bay Area Reporter* talked to Peter Goldblum, a psychiatric consultant to the project and its interim assistant director, to find out what the project offers.

There are four main aspects to the project, according to Goldblum. The first aspect is individual health screening and consultation, in which any person concerned about AIDS may talk to a professional mental health worker. The project has four counselors working at different locations around the city.

Secondly, the AIDS Health Project offers a series of workshops for people concerned about AIDS, or who have AIDS-related conditions. These workshops all take 8 weeks to complete and each deals with a different issue. There is an integrated health workshop concentrating on a holistic view of health. This workshop is aimed at helping the individual to determine which area of his life

night sweats, or diarrhea.

A Depression Workshop is offered for people who are feeling hopeless and helpless in the face of the health crisis. This workshop is aimed especially at people who have begun to become incapacitated in other areas of their lives because of their depression.

A third aspect of the project, according to Goldblum, is working with people who have AIDS, primarily the people in Ward 86 (the out-patient ward) at San Francisco General Hospital. The project's aim here is to assess the psychological needs of people with AIDS and to refer them to appropriate agencies or professionals, and, when it's necessary to provide crisis counseling on the spot. Counseling is also offered to couples in which one of the partners has come down with AIDS. Shanti and the AIDS Foundation work with the AIDS Project to coordinate services for people who have been diagnosed with AIDS, Goldblum added.

"This is a safety net," Goldblum said, "for those people who will have severe psychological problems coping with the disease."

The final service offered by the AIDS Health Project is the Youth Program, an outreach program for youth at risk of contracting AIDS. This is basically an educational effort for reaching minors who may not view themselves as Gay, according to Goldblum.

Since the project's inception earlier this year, 80 to 100 people have gone through the program. Most of these people were referred to the project because they had lovers or friends who came down with AIDS, or because they were referred by the VD clinic as people at risk for contracting the disease.

What criteria is the city's VD clinic using to judge when someone is at risk for contracting AIDS? According to Goldblum, these are men with a recent history of venereal disease, particularly anal gonorrhea or syphilis.

"Our program," Goldblum said, "is based on two traditions; firstly the Gay mental health movement which has evolved over the last 15 years in the major urban areas and is based on mental health care by and for Gay people. Secondly it is based on new trends in behavioral medicine, particularly our new understanding of the role of stress in the development of diseases and in the breakdown of the immune system."

Anyone interested in the AIDS Health Project's services should contact Tim Sally, the other assistant director of the project, at 626-6637. If you're interested in volunteering in either a professional or clerical capacity give the project a call.

Computer Corp. Fails in Challenge Of City's Gay Rights Ordinance

Boston-based Digital Equipment Corp. has failed in an attempt to challenge the San Francisco Gay Rights Ordinance. The challenge came in preliminary motions involving a \$5 million discrimination lawsuit. The suit was filed by Brandon T. Stanford, a sales marketing specialist at Digital's local office.

Stanford's suit in San Francisco Superior Court alleges that Digital "maintains a course and policy of refusing to promote Gay employees" and has "refused to pay (Stanford) on an equal basis with heterosexual employees" in violation of the city's Gay Rights Ordinance.

Digital challenged the Gay Rights Ordinance, saying it conflicted with state law, which does not expressly prohibit anti-Gay discrimination. Superior Court Judge Roy Wonder ruled

there was no conflict between local and state laws. (Wonder is the judge expected to rule this month on the city's efforts to close Gay bathhouses and sex clubs).

Stanford's attorney, Daniel N. Silva, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Stanford has been reassigned away from a supervisor at Digital who made "homophobic remarks," and has been granted a promotion, since the lawsuit was filed. ■

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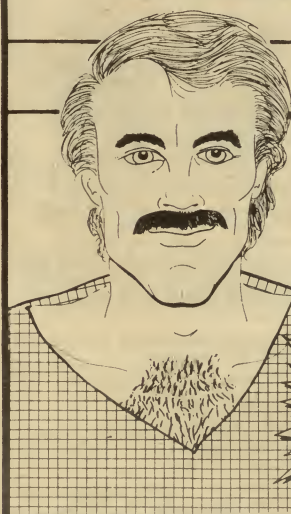


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Whirling the Night Away, a San Francisco tradition, as is the Discospectacular. Affair at Galleria Saturday night will look back on a decade of disco. (Photo: Rink)

Turning Back the Turntable 'Last Call' for the Classics of Disco

Party This Weekend Provides Retrospection For Six Years of S.F. Disco Spectaculars

by Allen White

Saturday night the Galleria is the setting for a retrospective of the disco dance classics. The party is titled, "Last Call" and the night is going to feature the music of seven years of grand parties that are a Gay phenomenon in San Francisco.

The grand party concept began back in 1978 with a group called the Creative Power Foundation. Several people headed by the dynamic Michael Maletta produced an event called "Night Flight." It was followed by a still-remembered party event called "Stars."

It was the dream of Maletta to create a total party environment which touched all the senses. The energy level was sustained throughout the night and the music and the lighting were to be overwhelming. It would seem that every person who attended these events still finds the nights unforgettable.

In August 1978, David Bandy and Gary Roverana joined forces and formed Conceptual Entertainment. They also latched onto the Galleria as a party site. Their first event, "A Salute to the Men of San Francisco," launched a series of events which have continued to the present. Never before had Gay men had the opportunity to gather in such numbers and in such a spectacular space to dance. Conceptual Entertainment continued without competition for several years.

Then Moscone Center opened. With the opening came the opportunity for another party location. Dick Collier, the owner of Trocadero Transfer, and John Vukas, joined forces to produce "First Encounter." The numbers became overwhelming. Possibly 7,500 people were on the dance floor at one time. The lighting and the sound equipment were brought in on flatbed trucks. The area was so large the trucks were simply parked.

Along the way, promoters came to town attempting to duplicate what had been created. Most failed. The costs were astronomical and the prospect of financial ruin in a night was very real.

In 1982, times began to change. David Bandy and Gary Roverana chose to go their separate ways. Roverana chose to produce one event at the Galleria in the Fall of 1982. It became significant because it was the beginning of an important change.



Pioneers of Disco David Bandy, danceathon producer; and Disco Diva Sylvester, whose falsetto crooning set the tone for the disco craze beginning in the mid-70s. (Photo: Rink)

Unbeknownst to most partygoers that night was a man near the sound booth who was dying. His name was Patrick Cowley. His creativity and his sounds had become the music that people were dancing to.

That night as he watched and listened, Cowley saw the dance floor filled with men dancing to his music. The group which will perform next Saturday night, Jo-Lo, at the time was called the Patrick Cowley Singers.

They were part of a record family which was forming called Megatone Records. With his co-partner Marty Bleeman, Patrick Cowley was watching an important change. The artists that night also included Paul Parker and Megatone's superstar, Sylvester.

A few days later Patrick Cow-

ley was dead. The party scene was starting to change as people became concerned about an unknown, a disease called AIDS. The early months of 1983 produced confusion and fear, and it had a dampening effect on the moods and the energy of the big party nights.

In August of 1983, Sanford Kellman secured a new party location, the Giftcenter. With his own personal touch, he went in to the big party business after years of running the successful I-Beam on Haight Street. After a fair beginning, he planned his second party event at the Giftcenter on Thanksgiving weekend. He dropped the admission price, put on a fabulous show, and his production team was an unqualified success.

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DISCO

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Then came New Year's Eve 1983. Moscone Center was the location for what was to be the party to end all parties. John Vukas and Sanford Kellman joined forces. The results were twofold. The first was the extreme success of the Moscone Center event in terms of numbers. Estimates range to well over the ten thousand mark, making this the largest disco dance party possibly ever under one roof.

The downside was the drain on every other party location in the city. Trocadero Transfer was almost empty on New Year's Eve, usually their best night of the year. Over at the Galleria, the mood was less than triumphant. Quantity all of a sudden didn't always equate to quality.

It would be for Sanford Kellman to pull the action back into focus with his Giftcenter Valentine's Day party. The crowd was solid, the mood enthusiastic and there was a sense of change in the air.

Last June, David Bandy chose to relinquish their Gay Freedom Day Tea Dance to a new group, TM Productions. Their first time out they were pleased though not ecstatic while Sanford Kellman jammed the Giftcenter with a stunning performance by Sylvester.

Last August, TM Productions presented a party at the Galleria and Sanford Kellman produced an event at the Giftcenter. Both began to use different marketing techniques. It was the night before the Castro Street Fair and people were in a mood to party. Party they did at both locations and both were recognized as successful.

For Halloween 1984, David Bandy returned and, to many people's surprise, Sanford Kellman chose not to compete at the Giftcenter. The Halloween party was to be the amazingly successful Conceptual Entertainment event at the Galleria.

Saturday night the TM Production production staff, headed by Terry Mohny and Rick Taylor, are producing what, on the surface should be an outstanding success. They know how to produce a dance party, they are going to present nostalgia for the first time as a party theme, and they have lowered the admission price to a rock-bottom \$11. Tickets for this event are available at Headlines, both on Polk and on Castro. A spot ticket check over the past weekend indicates the event may sell out in advance. ■

Bathhouse Closure Protestors March in Candlelight Parade

The Committee to Preserve Our Sexual and Civil Liberties has issued a call to all those opposed to closure of baths and sex clubs, peep shows and theaters, to join together on Tuesday, Nov. 17 as a single contingent in the Seventh Annual Candlelight March.

The committee asks that all who wish to participate bring a token light of a candle with them to the Cafe Sn. Marcos, 17th & Castro Streets, at 6 p.m. that evening as a sharing of power in the hour or so before the march begins.

Final planning for this strong and solemn showing as well as other important arousals to resistance will grow out of the coalition's regular Friday night meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Club Baths (201 8th Street). ■

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Keynote by Eric Rofes

Saturday, December 8

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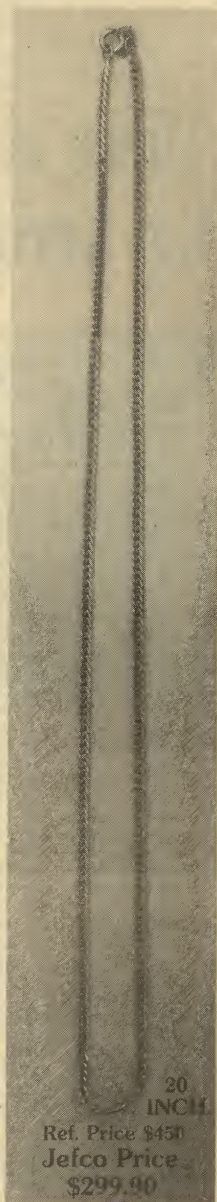
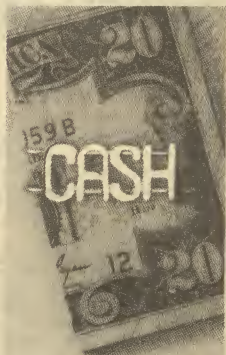
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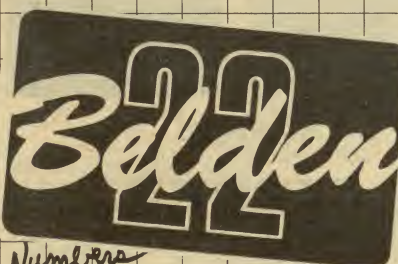
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There is Life After 40 — Gay Gerontology Comes of Age

by Marc Shaw

Age is a specter we would rather ignore. True enough for the population generally, that attitude is even truer for Gays. The resulting heavy emphasis on being — or staying — young makes life often difficult for aging Gay men and Lesbians. But consciousness has been raised and positive steps taken to make the situation for aging Gay men and women better in the last few years, as I learned from Donald Catalano in a recent interview.

Catalano is a social worker with a specialty in gerontology. He works in and out of the Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. With a preparation in social work at the University of California-Berkeley and considerable graduate study, Catalano has extended and deepened his understanding and skills in his work at Pacific and in various other organizations and efforts. One of the most notable of the latter was as convenor of the Second National Conference on Lesbian and Gay Aging held at San Francisco State University in June 1983.

Catalano is careful to differentiate his work from that of the medical geriatric specialist. The latter concentrates mainly on the physical, with such studies as those on the cellular changes in aging people. Gerontology is the larger field and includes work with the psychological and social situations of the aged.

In this realm, Catalano deals with the social, legal, and financial problems of the aged who are confined to the geriatric psychiatric unit at PMC. From this vantage he can see and help in the evolution of programs for Gay seniors.

How old must one be to be classified in the geriatric group? That depends very much on the classifier, Catalano emphasized. For those in government, 65 (Medicare eligibility) would be the point. Among Gay men, 40 is often the age at which the guy is thought of as "older." Among Lesbians, it is sometimes as young as 30!

But there is an important dif-

ference between Gay men and Lesbians in attitude toward age. For the former, there is often a distinct consciousness of separation and a reaction to that. Witness the formation of Gay 40+ for the guys.

Among the Lesbians, there is often an opposite attitude. The older woman is often regarded with much respect and affection. She tends to be more consistently involved with the total group. Typical of their groups is SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians).

For Catalano and many others in gerontology, however, there is an abandonment of the chronological mark, with the replacement being "functional age." Basically, that term means the capacity or incapacity to perform the necessary activities of daily life. Consequently, age is a matter more of degree. The more aged need more help with the daily tasks, no matter what their birthdates might be.

On the matter of significant differences between Gay and straight among the aged, Catalano pointed out that straights disengage socially as they age, in retiring from work, for example. They are usually able to maintain emotional and social support within their families. For the aging Gay, this support is often not present, especially if the Gay person is estranged from his family because of his Gayness.

One recourse is for the Gay person to create his or her own "family" with his or her age peers. Of course, the limitation is that as death claims these peers, the family shrinks.

The more practical strategy is to create inter-generational ties. Catalano believes that the most natural of these ties can be created between the aging and those Gay men and women who see themselves as middle-aged. Often, Gays in middle age are depressed at the realization of the loss of youth. Older Gays who have managed their aging realistically and happily can be role models to their middle-aged brothers and sisters.

But for even the youngest Gays, the aged have a particular value. The oldsters are storehouses of Gay experience from decades back. They can teach the young firsthand what it was like to be a Gay man or Lesbian in times such as World War II.

It has been the observation of such specialists as Douglas Kimmel, who has studied and written much in the field of Gay gerontology, that often Gay men and women have a unique advantage in managing the aging process.

Because when they were younger they had to adjust to being Gay and still get along in this world, Kimmel argues, Gays have developed a certain toughness and versatility that stand them in good stead when they accommodate to being older.

The problems of Gay men and Lesbians differ some as they age, Catalano stated. Regrettably, there has not been sufficient research in this area. But in one sphere, the important difference is obvious: money. Aging Lesbians are often much less financially secure than their male counterparts. However, the aging Gay man is often more apt to have problems with alcohol.

The mental health of the aging Gay has been seen to be more heavily affected by the loss of loved ones. Not only does this kind of crisis frequently bring troubles with the family of the deceased, in the matter of inheritance especially, but grieving tends to be more extended and severe.

The theory is that this greater grief could very well have been generated from the necessity of having to live a closeted life, with no general social recognition of the love relationship.

In addition to Gay 40+ and Slightly Older Lesbians, other organizations are operating to serve older Gays. In New York and Washington, D.C., there are chapters of SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment). In Los Angeles there is "Project

cont. on next page

Is There Life After 40?

cont. from previous page

Rainbow." In our area there are GLOE (Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders) in San Francisco and the Slightly Older Lesbians and Older Men's Support Group in San Jose at the Billy DeFrank Community Center.

Also, ad hoc organizations appear. In 1980, Coming Home was put together to explore the idea of a hospice for aging Gays in their last illnesses. It was discovered that creating such a facility was not financially feasible, but since, there has come to be a Gay auxiliary for the San Francisco Hospice. This group has encouraged volunteers to join such efforts as the Shanti Project and has conducted fund-raising for the Hospice.

As these eventualities developed, the question arose in some quarters about the advisability of having Gay nursing homes. Catalano encountered this suggestion more than once as he addressed meetings of Gay 40+.

A counter-argument was usually raised: because the aged are nonsexual anyway, why should there be a special care facility for Gays? The speciousness of that argument was quickly seen as the actual sexuality of aging Gays, sometimes

strong indeed, came to light.

Furthermore, it was pointed out that a Gay nursing home would be a happier place for those who wanted to preserve their lifestyle. The alternative might very well be a retreat to the closet and its unhappiness.

While Catalano can see that such points have validity, he believes that a parallel system would be preferable. That is, there should be a recognition of the needs of aging Gays within the existing general care set-up. In his view, both Gays and straights would benefit.

Financially, in addition to the many and very practical sets of advice now about us for the preservation of health and happiness in our older years, Catalano had two pieces of important advice for aging Gay men and Lesbians.

First, really work on establishing and maintaining inter-generational networks. Second, get financial and legal affairs in order. On the latter count, establish durable power of attorney. Such power enables someone close to you to carry out necessary acts if the older Gay is incapacitated. ■

M. Shaw

Bad Blood in Australia Prompts Attacks on Gays

Fear of AIDS from contaminated blood supplies has led to violence against Gays in Australia. Attacks on Gays in the Oxford Street neighborhood of Sydney and widely reported threats to fire Gay employees followed a blood scare last week.

It was announced last week that Australia's only blood bank had become contaminated with AIDS. Government health authorities reported that 18 people were known to have been contaminated with the AIDS virus, and of those, 13 had died.

Health authorities have banned Gay people from giving blood. Blood donors now will be required to sign a statement attesting that they are not Gay. Those who falsify the form, and are later found to have contributed AIDS-tainted blood, will be prosecuted for manslaughter, government authorities said. ■

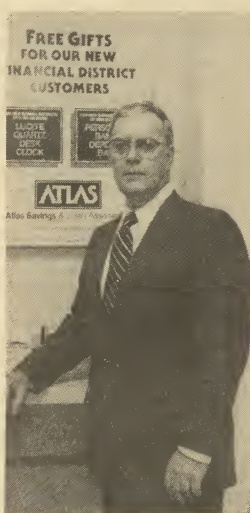
James Bowersox Named New President At Atlas Savings and Loan Association

James H. Bowersox, a banker experienced in San Francisco financial circles for more than ten years, has been appointed President and Chief Executive Office of Atlas Savings and Loan Association. Bowersox, 57, was most recently Executive Vice President of Nevada National Bank in Reno, although he gained most of his banking experience with major California banks.

Bowersox has a strong background in asset and liability management, electronic banking, marketing, consumer banking, and installment lending. He is also knowledgeable about credit card services, having worked for Atlantic States Bancard Association in the Carolinas.

Bowersox said, "I see my position with Atlas as a unique challenge and an opportunity to apply my banking experience to a growing new savings and loan association. I want to help Atlas provide its customers with quality in product and quality in service. Atlas must continue to actively support the community it serves, and be a viable member of the financial community," he added.

Bowersox is a past National Director of the Bank Marketing Association, past President of the Western Chapter of BMA, and is currently active in the Northern California Chapter of Financial Institutions Marketing Association. He holds an MBA in banking from Golden Gate University, a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California, and has



James H. Bowersox

completed graduate work at the University of California at Los Angeles. His hobbies include fixing up old cars and he holds a commercial pilot license.

Gay, Lesbian Scholarships Given

The Gay and Lesbian Educational Services Committee of the San Francisco Community College District has announced the recipients of its first scholarships. Ora Anne Hatheway, an architecture student at City College of San Francisco, has received a \$250 scholarship, and Jack Essig, a nursing student at City College, has received the \$250 Rick Jacobi Memorial Scholarship.

The GLESC scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic standing, financial need, past service to the community and potential for future service. Ora Hatheway worked as a peer advisor and helped to establish Gay and Lesbian support services at the College. She plans to continue such work, and she also plans to continue her active involvement in the American Indian Movement. Jack Essig is tri-lingual and has done volunteer work helping Southeast Asian refugees relocate in the United States. He also does volunteer work helping terminally ill AIDS patients.

GLESC will be awarding two more scholarships for the Spring, 1985 semester. Students at the San Francisco Community College Centers, as well as students at City College, are eligible to apply. Applications will be accepted until Nov. 30. To obtain applications or further information, call Sava Ranisavljevic at (415) 239-3095. ■

DEATHS



Mark Hughes

On Monday, Nov. 12, Mark Hughes died at the Garden Sullivan Hospital where he had been undergoing treatment for AIDS-related diseases. Mark passed away peacefully on the night of his 34th birthday. Just two hours prior to his death, he was able to share in a brief and quiet celebration of his birthday with his lover and a few very close friends.

A native of Detroit, Mark had worked at the Arena for two years. More recently, he worked with his lover David Cockman, at Angles, the well known screen printing establishment in San Francisco. Mark's warm and caring nature, for which he was known by all his friends, was most recently demonstrated by the charity work he performed for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Shanti Project during his own illness.

In addition to his lover, Mark is also survived by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hughes of Florida; a sister, Renee; his former wife, Mrs. Suzanne Salazar; and his two young daughters, Suzanne and Kristin, of Hawaii. He also leaves behind his roommate and close friend, Steve Loignon.

Memorial services were held Saturday, Nov. 17, at Most Holy Redeemer Church on Diamond Street. ■

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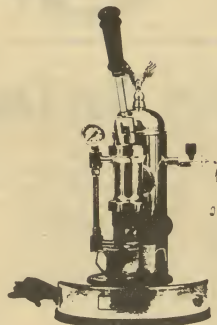
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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Wins Bias Case

cont. from page 1

harassed him by requesting a Special Services Agent to investigate him. LaFevre also named Eddie Ylst, Superintendent, CMF; Ivaloe Henry, formerly Associate Superintendent, CMF, and Carl Larson, formerly Interim Superintendent, CMF, in his complaint.

On March 13, 1982, LaFevre was the victim of an assault and attempted robbery at his residence in Santa Cruz. In the Santa Cruz police report of the incident, Mr. LaFevre's sexual orientation was mentioned.

When CMF management learned of this Santa Cruz incident, they obtained a copy of the policy report and conducted an investigation, because they knew that LaFevre was returning to his employment at CMF. LaFevre had been working as a parole agent for the California Youth Authority.

On July 1, 1982, LaFevre returned to his position of Correctional Lieutenant at CMF, Vacaville. Beginning July 20, 1982, LaFevre was subjected to an interrogation by the Special Services Unit of the Department of Corrections, and a Special Services Unit Agent conducted an extensive background investigation of LaFevre.

During the interrogation and in reports revealed later, the Department of Corrections attempted to build a case for dismissal. The Special Services Agent interviewed 25 persons, including LaFevre's prior employers.

LaFevre was removed as a Watch Commander, halfway through his watch. He was denied overtime work, and was assigned a doubled workload which was impossible to complete.

In an unprecedented move, the State Personnel Board granted LaFevre's Request to File Charges against his superiors, and set his matter for hearing.

As a result, the Department of Corrections entered into settlement negotiations with LaFevre and his attorney, Carolyn Langenkamp, of the Sacramento law firm of Metrailler, Langenkamp,

and Buscho.

Langenkamp stated, "This is a landmark case. The State Personnel Board's decision to grant LaFevre a hearing compelled the Department of Corrections to take positive steps to provide a discrimination free environment for correctional employees."

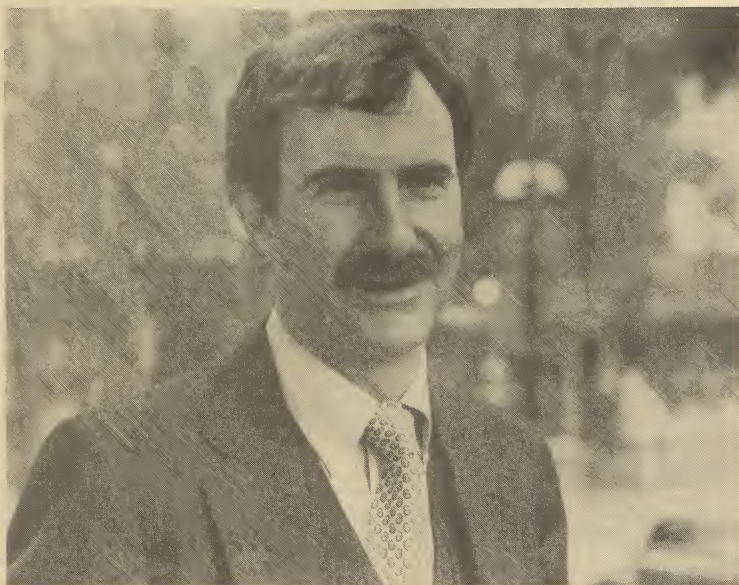
By the terms of the settlement, the Department of Corrections will do the following.

- Provide training state-wide to all its managers and supervisors on how to develop and maintain a work environment that is free of discrimination with an emphasis on sexual orientation.
- Send a letter to Mr. LaFevre expressing its regret over the length and breadth of the investigation into the Santa Cruz assault in which Mr. LaFevre was a victim.
- Pay Mr. LaFevre \$24,715 as general damages.
- Issue a policy statement asserting the Department of Corrections' commitment to non-discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians.

As a pioneer for the rights of Gay men and Lesbians, LaFevre felt pressure and extreme stress. He said, "I was very committed to providing competent, decent correctional work within the Department. But because of the harassment, I was unable to continue my job with the Department of Corrections. There were many times when I thought this fight was not worth it. The stress was intense. I could not have done it without the support from Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees and Assemblyman Art Agnos, among others."

"I'm afraid my experience is not unusual," Mr. LaFevre stated. "We need legislation to protect all Gay men and Lesbians from the kinds of reprisals I faced," he said.

Boyce Himman, President of Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees applauded the settlement and noted, "The public is poorly served when an administration through bias destroys the effectiveness of an employee."



New San Mateo Supe is Tom Nolan. While Nolan didn't keep his being Gay a secret, he didn't make an issue of it either. Neither did his opponent—or the voters.

He's Gay, But It's No Issue As Tom Nolan Wins on Peninsula

New San Mateo County Supervisor Discusses His Campaign and Legislative Agenda

by Marvin Shaw

"Rather than a Gay politician, I am a politician who also happens to be Gay," Tom Nolan, newly elected San Mateo County Supervisor (Fourth District), so characterized himself in a recent interview in his Burlingame office. As Nolan sees it, the major difference lies in his own understanding of his sexual orientation and his political motives. While some politicians see their careers as originating from their being Gay, Nolan sees his as more broadly based, conditioned by a variety of intentions, but with the achievement of goals for Lesbians and Gay men as part of the totality.

At present, a specific goal Nolan sees himself working for is an improvement of the treatment of AIDS patients in the county. But the goals Gays have strived for in other districts have already been achieved here or seem not to be important.

San Mateo County enacted anti-discrimination laws in employment seven years ago. While an extension of this kind of protection for housing might be appropriate, Nolan's opinion sampling of Gays prior to the elections revealed no problem.

However, Nolan acknowledges that as an important member of the county government establishment, he will be one spokesperson for the mid-Peninsula Gay community. The Peninsula Business Guild, now being re-organized, he views as a group whose efforts are to be encouraged.

While Nolan did not keep his being Gay a secret during his campaign, he did not represent himself as the Gay candidate either. As he was preparing himself for the campaign, he consulted various knowledgeable people about his chances. They explored with him his attitudes towards himself as a Gay man becoming a politician, finally encouraging him to launch a campaign.

As that campaign developed, a climate of tolerance and ac-

ceptance was perceived. Before the primary, both his opponents called, told him that they knew he was Gay but would not raise the matter during the campaign. Peninsula newspapers apparently reached a similar decision independently.

At one point, his being Gay became general knowledge around the County Government Center in Redwood City. Nolan and his staff determined that they would not deal publicly with the matter unless it were raised by a challenger. It never was. Tom Nolan's being Gay was essentially a non-issue in the campaign.

Throughout the contest, no Gay person accused Nolan of cowardice for not running as an openly Gay candidate. On the contrary, Nolan stated, "Many Gay people helped me in the campaign."

So what are the major objectives Nolan sees for himself as a new Supervisor? And what are the guiding principles he will follow in achieving them?

Represented as pro-development in the campaign, Nolan modifies that stance with some cautions. Because he views the Peninsula as a naturally beautiful place to live—an opinion shared by his constituency—he said he will be careful to control development to prevent harm to the environment.

Central to his operational principles is Nolan's conviction that there must be cooperation among the public, private, and non-profit sectors if significant progress is to be made. His own occupational background includes experience in all three.

The new supervisor sees several important short and long range goals. One of the most immediate is getting the blocks cleared and the contracts set for the construction of the Devil's Slide bypass before September 1986. If that stage is not reached by then, federal funding will disappear. A vital second priority is to expedite the organization of an efficient county health system.

Nolan sees housing and transportation as both immediate and long range matters. On record as favoring the extension of BART to the airport, he believes that eventually the system should encircle the bay.

Housing for seniors is one of the most pressing problems for the new supervisor. To illustrate the need, Nolan told of a recently opened unit in Millbrae, for 77 occupants, which had more than a thousand applicants. He urges the exploration of creative options—the construction of housing above public parking lots, for example.

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Nez Exposed!

God's Hooks! It's that time again when the tables are turned, if you will, and I answer questions asked of me by those whom I have interviewed. To make a game of it, this time I won't even give the date of the interview. See if you can guess who asked the question(s) just by how they were worded.

What do you want to really be when (if) you grow up?

Nez: Older.

I would like to know your opinion of the court system, not just ACIE, but all the courts up and down the coast. An honest answer would be much appreciated.

Nez: Not that it really makes any difference, my opinion of any court system is summed up in one word—WHY? If the main purpose of a court is to raise money for charities, is it actually essential that those doing the raising must have a pseudotitle? Isn't the money still as green coming from a "commoner"? If a court system is the catalyst necessary to raise these monies, then why all the pomp and circumstance (and bitching) about titles—or lack thereof? If the court systems are intended strictly as fun and games, then why do far too many take it and themselves so seriously? To me, that's silly.

Why don't you run for Emperor? You would be a big asset to ACIE.

Nez: Oh no I wouldn't! My spouse would kill me. What good is a dead emperor?

How do you keep yourself from going insane from doing the newspaper and holding up a business and a lover?

Nez: Gracious! I can't recall ever having done a newspaper! Am I missing something really kinky? As far as holding up a business and a lover, the weight from either one would surely kill me. Have you seen my spouse lately? Besides, you forgot to mention my other full time job, hon!

Who are the ten most active Gay people in Alameda County, i.e., ACIE, fundraisers, AIDS, etc.?

Nez: Hoohey! In no particular order and no particular category, I guess that I would have to make my Big Ten List include: Ed Paulson, Little Mother, Doug Odermat, Sam and Marv, Villain Al, Frumpy, Zephyr Jim, Sheriff Sean, and Rick Woolley. Of course, the most important one—the community itself—has to be what it is in order for there to be any "top ten."

Who do you think are the 10 least liked?

Nez: Egads! Least liked by whom? I am not about to make any kind of suggestion as to who might be on the shit list of anyone. Ask any ten people, and there will definitely be 100 different names—save for one or two. I'm sure that for whatever reasons if such a list were compiled, Nez Pas would be among the top two of the top ten most disliked. To like or dislike someone, I have to know them. There certainly are a few I don't even want to know.

Do you sometimes feel "obligated" to interview individuals you would rather not interview?

Nez: There is no obligation to my interviews, in any way. I feel that I get far more out of them than those who are interviewed. My main concern is whether the

reading audience gleans anything from them. I have never been asked, "Why don't you interview so-and-so?" I usually get, "Why did you interview so-and-so?" It's impossible to please everyone, so I don't even try. I usually interview those whom I want to find out more about. Hopefully, the readers will find some bit of interest. Incidentally, one of my interviews was read by an individual "residing" in the department of corrections in Mississippi. The letter was directed to me, but it was a result of an interview with Lady Johnny. I will be happy to share it with her if she wants.

How do you see the drags that you know?

Nez: Usually in heels, dresses, and make-up.

In the years past, do you think that any one individual stands out in this community, and why?

Nez: Without a doubt, Billy deFrank. He was always honest with me, no matter what our differences of opinions were. We knew where each other stood, and could rely on those standings to remain true.

What is your opinion of our reigning monarchs and the goals they have achieved so far?

Nez: This question was asked before Coronation VI. My opinion has to be that they make a cute couple, and I am not aware of any goals achieved. Matter of fact, does anyone know of the goals of any of the monarchs?

How did you get the name Nez Pas?

Nez: Many years ago there was an organization called E.A. S.T.B.A.Y. Association, with a newsletter called the *Eastbay Communique*. There were several workers on the newsletter, including my Tita and me. We decided to add a little "color and spice" by writing a gossip-type column. Tita used his bastardized French to come up with a name that meant a nose dancing into people's business; hence, Nez (nose) Pas (a dance step).

How did you get involved with writing your article for the *Bay Area Reporter*?

Nez: Mercy! All these "age" questions! Well, dear one, several years ago there was a bar in Oakland called Zephyr, and every Friday and Saturday night there was live, name entertainment in their show lounge. Also, at that time, Gene Earl was *East Bay Correspondent*, along with Russian River, Sacramento, Modesto, Fresno, etc. He would deliver the *Bay Area Reporter* to these places and write up their current events, if you will. One evening at the Zephyr, I encountered Gene delivering his papers. The several scotch and waters in me prompted my stating to him that not enough was being written about Oakland; that there was a lot going on that he did not report. He told me that if I wanted more written, I could write it, and he would pick up my piece in one month—the paper was monthly then. Well, I did, and he did, and I have been ever since.

Do you really enjoy Oakland?

Nez: Good Heavens yes! I arrived here in 1953 (at a very early age) to attend college at California College of Arts and Crafts. I have remained here ever since.

NEZ PAS

Dial-a-Porn Lawsuits Pull Plug On Nevada 'Hot' Line Telephone Calls

by George Mendenhall

The use of telephone services to obtain masturbation fantasies has been frustrated in Nevada by two lawsuits. Nevada Bell was sued Nov. 7 by Sapphire Communications of Reno and has counter-sued to halt the dial-a-porn service.

Sapphire advertises telephone numbers which produce a sexually suggestive recorded telephone talk by a woman who asks that you "call back after 10 p.m." After 10 p.m. you are offered a personal conversation with a woman for a \$20 VISA charge. Similar services are offered to Gay men in San Francisco and elsewhere. Sapphire did not advertise that the initial call involves a 50-cent to \$2 fee, which is divided by Bell and Sapphire.

Nevada Bell has been refunding service charges to customers who complain about the charges. Sapphire began its service on June 22 and Bell said it made \$44,000 in refunds since then. The porn service says it has only received \$14,000 from Bell and says it is entitled to \$100,000 plus \$1 million in punitive damages.

American Express, the nation's third-largest charge-it agency, informed its cardholders in May that they may not use its card for tele-porn services. "Now Talk," a Gay telephone service, is currently challenging this action in court.

There is a 51-year-old Federal Communications Commission statute which prohibits "obscene, lewd, or indecent" interstate calls. However, the FCC ruled in 1983 that the law was adopted to protect non-consenting parties who did not want to receive such calls. A major difficulty in enforcement has

also been that the U.S. Supreme Court has never defined what is obscene, lewd, or indecent.

Parents were complaining that their children were running up the house telephone bills by making the initial calls—without knowing that there was a service charge.

There are currently several lawsuits pending involving the dial-a-porn lines but evidently the daytime use of the porn lines continues. While this reporter was in New York City this month he called a telephone number posted on a pay phone that said "Give Me A Call." At the other end was a sultry woman's voice. She said, "I am laying here wishing you were a fisherman—so you could give me your long hard pole. Call this number—and we'll talk after 10 p.m."

Isherwood Wins L.A. Annual Literary Award

Christopher Isherwood, 80, was given a *Los Angeles Times* Robert Kirsch Book Award Nov. 2. The famed Gay author received his honor as "the outstanding writer whose literary contribution has been focused on the West."

The recipient is best known for youthful memories of life in Germany before the advent of Adolph Hitler.

French Activist Set to Lecture at Stanford Gay Group

As part of its Fall Speakers' Series, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford (GLAS) is sponsoring a public talk, "Movement, Media and Memory: An Insider's View of the Gay Community in France," on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 8 p.m. in History Corner, Room 202, on the Stanford Campus.

The talk will be given by Jacques Vandemborghe, a leading Parisian Gay activist and journalist. He will discuss the contemporary Gay movement and the development of Gay and Lesbian journalism and media (including press, radio, video and film) in France, as well as the recent organization of a Gay and Lesbian archives and library in Paris.

Vandemborghe is Secretary-General of the Parisian archives, founder and director of CARIS, a collection and production company for film and video about human sexuality, and president of the Collectif Ultra-Violet, a Lesbian and Gay media workers collective. He writes for the quarterly review *Masques* and the monthly *Profits* and broadcasts for the full-time FM gay radio station in Paris, Frequence Gaie.

Vandemborghe's talk is free and open to the public.

Harvey Milk Film Opens in Oakland

The *Life and Times of Harvey Milk* moves to Oakland this week for Eastbay audiences. It begins Friday, Nov. 23 at the Rialto Theatre in Oakland.

W

We all think of the holidays as a time of gift giving and sharing. Join us at the OBELISK this season in an effort to help the S.F. AIDS Foundation expand their AIDS prevention-education and direct social service activities.

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THIS

FRIDAY 23

- **Normalville:** dance event, Russian Center, 2450 Sutter st., S.F., 10 PM, cover. Sistah Boom and videos will entertain, new wave and soul mix music. Presented by De-Ter-Ent. Proceeds from the bar and an art raffle will benefit autistic children.
- **Holiday Heat Wave:** dance benefit, The Green Room, San Francisco War Memorial, 401 Van Ness Ave., S.F., 8 PM, \$10. With Conjunto Cespedes and Necropolis of Love. A benefit for the San Francisco Women's Building.
- **Monica Palacios and Marga Gomez:** comedy, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.
- **Pamela Brooks:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St., at Mason, S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$5.
- **Streamers:** stage performance, South of Market Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St., S.F., 8 PM, \$8. Presented by the Full Circle Theatre Collective.
- **Beach Blanket Babylon:** stage performance, Club Fugazi, 678 Green St., S.F., 8 and 10:30 PM, \$16. The holiday version begins.
- **Bob Ernst and Wayne Doba:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. *The Performer* and *The Pocket Organizer* will be performed.
- **Otherwise Engaged:** stage performance, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 8 PM, \$11 to \$14.50. Simon Gray's scathing comedy directed by Richard E.T. White.
- **Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris:** cabaret, the Barn Theatre, Marin Art and Garden, Ross, 8:30 PM, call 456-9555 for reservations.
- **The Quintessential Image and After Eleven:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, cover. Theatre Rhino opens its season with two one-act plays, *The Quintessential Image* by Jane Chambers, and *After Eleven* by Victor Bumbalo.
- **Jane and the Family Jewels:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 9 and 11 PM, \$6. Starring Jane Dornacker.
- **Jazz:** dance class, Pride Center Auditorium, 890 Hayes St. at Fillmore, S.F., 6 to 7:30 PM, free. Beginning jazz taught by Ron Petersen. Wear gym clothes or loose clothing.

SATURDAY 24

- **Last Call:** dance event, Galleria, 101 Kansas St., S.F., 10 PM to 5 AM, \$15. T.M. Productions presents classic discos and the latest hits, Jolo will perform. Where have you been Mary Louise?
- **Gay Comedy Night:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5. With Marga Gomez, Mano Mondelli, and Suzy Berger.
- **Leola Jiles:** music, Mames, 389 Bay St., at Mason, S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$6. Gospel and jazz.
- **Opera Nova:** gala, Gill Theater, Fulton and Cole Sts., S.F., 8 PM, \$10. The University of San Francisco and North Beach Grand Opera introduce their partnership with a selection of arias and ensembles from past, present, and possible future productions, including Verdi's *Il Trovatore* and *Aida*, Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*, and works by Catalani, Donizetti, Bizet, and Mascagni.
- **Streamers:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Beach Blanket Babylon:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Bob Ernst and Wayne Doba:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Otherwise Engaged:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris:** cabaret (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Quintessential Image and After Eleven:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Jane and the Family Jewels:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

SUNDAY 25

- **Jane Dornacker and Michael Greer:** comedy, Chaps, 375 11th St., S.F., 7 PM, \$6.
- **Chris Williamson, Tret Fure, Teresa Trull, and Barbara Higbie:** music, Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 8 PM, \$10. With Carrie Barton and Cam Davis.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** tea dance for Lesbians over 60 and their women friends, San Francisco Home Health Services, 225 30th St., S.F., 3 to 6 PM, bring refreshments, donations appreciated. A sing-along with piano and sheet music will be featured.



Michael Greer will appear both at

Call Sheryl Goldberg at 626-7000 for more information.

- **Paul Dubois:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.
- **FOG Songsters:** Christmas carol practice, the FOG House, 2038 22 Ave., S.F., 7 PM. Call 753-6786 for more information.
- **Eastbay FrontRunners:** run at Lake Merritt, meet at 9:30 AM in front of the Crew Boathouse. Call 526-7315 or 527-9167 for more information.
- **San Francisco Hiking Club:** day hike, Briones Regional Park, meet at 9:45 AM at Rolling Pin Donuts, 497 Castro St., S.F.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** run at Fort Point, Marina Green, begins at 10 AM at Fort Point, Park in gravel parking lot east of toll plaza. One to five miles.
- **Bob Bendorff:** music, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 8 PM, \$4. Follow the bouncing Bob in a sing-along.
- **Opera Nova:** gala, 2 PM (see Saturday listing for details).
- **Streamers:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Crossover:** music, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 2 PM, \$4. Gwendolyn Watson and John Toenjes with their blend of cello and harpsichord.
- **Drop-in VD Clinic:** sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7 to 9 PM. Free and confidential. Testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, etc., also counseling and referrals. Call 644-0425 for more information.
- **Beach Blanket Babylon:** stage performance, 7:30 PM, \$14 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Otherwise Engaged:** stage performance, 7 PM (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Quintessential Image and After Eleven:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **All Join Hands:** Gay square dancing, dancers from every club join hands at 2140 Market St., S.F., 5 to 7:30 PM, donation.

WEEK



Chaps and Sutter's Mill this week.

MONDAY 26

- **Beyond the Fringe:** stage performance, Marine's Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter St., S.F., 8 PM, cover. British comedy review with Clive Chafer, Scott Rankine, Philip Sales, Tracy Thornell, and Brian Sherman. Preview performance.
- **Reginald McDonald:** music, 1177 Club, 1177 California St., S.F., 8:30 PM, cover. With Joyce Imbasi at the piano. Reservations suggested, call 776-2101.
- **Michael Greer:** comedy, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 6 and 7 PM, \$5.
- **Gay Comedy Open Mike:** comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$3. Co-emcees Tom Ammiano and Mario Mondelli host new comedy talent.
- **Debbie Saunders and Lady Bianca:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 11 PM, An R&B double bill.

TUESDAY 27

- **Four Men:** music/comedy, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4.
- **Tom Ammiano:** comedy, Punch Line, 444A Battery, S.F., 9 PM, cover.
- **Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club:** meeting, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7 PM. The meeting will adjourn early so the people can join the candlelight march in progress.
- **Michael Greer:** comedy (see Monday listing for details).
- **Teresa Tudury:** music, Mame's 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 9 PM, \$5.
- **Joseph Taro:** music, Buckley's, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, \$5. With James Followell, Nancy MacLean, and Ed Fonseca.
- **Beyond the Fringe:** stage performance (see Monday

listing for details).

- **Artist Involved with Death and Survival:** stage performance, The Studio, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. A collaborative effort of 13 Bay Area Gay and Lesbian artists that delivers new insights into the deepening AIDS crisis.
- **Yoga and Meditation Class:** for people with AIDS and their lovers, 10 AM to noon. Call 921-4471 for more information.
- **Otherwise Engaged:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Addie:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.
- **International Folk Dancing:** dance class, Nova Academy, 347 Dolores St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, \$2. No preregistration necessary. Call 552-8413 for more information.

WEDNESDAY 28

- **Debbie Saunders and Raw Sugar:** music, Ivey's, 380 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 9 PM, cover.
- **Elements of Style:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom Street, S.F., 9 PM, cover. With Impulse F.
- **Four Men:** music/comedy (see Tuesday listing for details).
- **Jane and the Family Jewels:** stage performance, 9 PM, \$5 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Beyond the Fringe:** stage performance (see Monday listing for details).
- **Artists Involved with Death and Survival:** stage performance (see Tuesday listing for details).
- **Beach Blanket Babylon:** stage performance, 8 PM, \$14 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Bonnie Hayes:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM.
- **Mame's New Haven Tryouts:** music/comedy open mike, Mame's, 389 Bay St. at Mason, S.F., 8:30 PM, \$2. Hosted by Teresa Holcomb.
- **Otherwise Engaged:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Quintessential Image and After Eleven:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

THURSDAY 29

- **Hit and Run Theatre in Democracy in Traction:** stage performance, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.
- **Jane and the Family Jewels:** stage performance, 9 PM, \$5 (see Friday listing for details).
- **San Francisco Hiking Club:** general club meeting, 1833 Page St., S.F., 7:30 PM. There will be an opportunity to sign up for future trips.
- **Del Van Dyke:** comedy, Mame's, 389 Bay St., at Mason, S.F., 8:30 and 10 PM, \$4. With E.C. Scott.
- **Beyond the Fringe:** stage performance (see Monday listing for details).
- **Beach Blanket Babylon:** stage performance, 8 PM, \$14 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Yoga and Meditation Class:** for people with AIDS and their lovers, 7 to 9 PM. Call 921-4471 for more information.
- **Otherwise Engaged:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Couples Group II:** ongoing drop-in support group for persons with AIDS and their lovers, Pride Center, 890 Hayes St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM. Call 821-8830 or 558-9644 for more information.
- **The Quintessential Image and After Eleven:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Gwen Majors:** music, Clementina's Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 to 9 PM, R&B.
- **Writing Workshop:** for seniors 60 and older, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7 PM. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Call George Birimisa at 431-6254 for more information.
- **Western Star Dancers:** beginners square dance class, YMCA, 220 Golden Gate, 2nd floor, S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-6134 for more information.

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FILM

Not Eating Divine

Paul Bartel's Great Expectations

by Steve Warren

The more you think about it, the less Divine and Paul Bartel seem like an odd couple. Odd, certainly, and a couple in that they've worked together on *Lust in the Dust*. But there's a certain similarity to their cherubic exteriors—Paul's the one with the beard, Divine the one in the dress with an extra hundred or so pounds—and both are serious about making funny movies.

Divine, the director reports, had to get up at four in the morning to get into makeup for his role in the western spoof, and eschewed Santa Fe nightlife—"quite an active scene"—to get to bed early. "He just stayed home with his dogs," Bartel says, describing a more subdued Divine than most of us have known.

Eating Raoul made Bartel, its director/star/co-writer, a hot property. He hadn't made a movie in more than four years before starting Raoul, which was partly financed with the proceeds from his parents' New Jersey house. Since then he's made two films back-to-back, each of which cost more than the combined budgets of his first four features. Both *Not for Publication* and *Lust in the Dust* should be released this fall.

"My concern about *Not for Publication*," Bartel confided in his hotel room the day after the film's first public "sneak preview," "is that people who are interested in my work—and I expect them to form the base audience—may be disappointed because it is not as outrageous or extreme as *Eating Raoul*. A lot of our enjoyment of movies is based on our expectations and how they meet them."

He needn't have worried, judging from the response of the previous night's audience, which had been lured to San Francisco's esoteric Roxie by the promise of the first sneak preview of a new comedy by Paul Bartel. Still the ways he wants to get the word out that *Not for Publication* is "softer and sweeter."

"When I finished *Eating Raoul*," he told the preview audience, looking innocent but waiting for a laugh, "I wanted to make an *hommage* to the screwball comedies of the thirties and forties." As a result,

Karen Allen has the "Jean Arthur part" of a crusading journalist, temporarily working for a smutty tabloid, who with photographer David Naughton uncovers the shady activities of reelectioneering mayor Laurence Luckinbill.

While *Lust in the Dust* is closer to what Raoul fans expect of him, Bartel says it's still intended to appeal to a wider audience.

"It's a comedy-western. It's pretty broad. The subject matter of *Eating Raoul* (an upright, moralistic WASP couple murdering "swingers" for money to realize their American dream) was off-putting to a lot of people. Some wouldn't even go to see it because of the title." But how many of us did go to see it because of the title?

Again, Bartel had audience expectations to consider: His audience, Divine's audience, and the Gay audience, admittedly with a lot of overlap.

"We were at great pains not to make a 'ghetto movie,'" he says, sounding momentarily like Allan Carr on *Can't Stop the Music*. "Nothing (in *Lust in the Dust*) could be interpreted as pandering to a Gay audience. I didn't want it to feel as if it was winking all the time." He's sure it will still have Gay appeal, but "I hope straight and mixed audiences will also enjoy it."

It was a matter of concern to Bartel that Divine's previous films have all been directed by



Divine in *The Neon Women* at the Alcazar two years ago.

John Waters, and co-star Tab Hunter was in the last one, *Polyester*.

"I didn't want to seem to be doing a John Waters ripoff," he said. "He is a friend of mine, as it happens, and I admire his work."

Although he is "basically interested in making my own eccentric movies," Bartel accepted *Lust in the Dust* as what he calls "work for hire" when Hunter called and asked if he would direct it. The blond heart-throb of the '50s was acting as producer, and had raised the \$3 million budget from "private sources in Virginia," and hired most of the cast and crew before Bartel came aboard.

"I thought it was a funny and commercial script," Bartel says, admitting he still did some tinkering with it. "Everybody seemed to have the same vision of the film." They agreed that Divine, who was known for "highly stylized female character roles," should "play a subtler, more toned-down character."

Women in westerns are traditionally either schoolmarm or dance hall girls, and it's not likely Divine will ever be toned-down enough to play the former. Bartel describes his character as "a dance hall girl who's come to a little town in New Mexico called Chile Verde looking for some buried gold, half of the map to which is tattooed on her rear end. She has to find out who has the other half."

That's the plot, but the important thing in modern westerns is style. *Lust in the Dust* is, according to its director, "like a demented Sergio Leone western, in scope, with lots of close-ups of Tab's eyes." The cast includes Lainie Kazan,

Cesar Romero, Geoffrey Lewis, Henry Silva, and television's Nedra Volz.

Above all there's Divine, whom Bartel says he "found to be a very hard-working and serious actor, very inventive and directable."

"I never in my wildest imagination thought I'd be doing a western—ever," he said, but adds that he enjoyed the experience. "It was very refreshing to work on a production where my only real responsibility was directing."

Bartel's first film, released in 1972, was *Private Parts*, a \$300,000 shocker about a man (actually a woman in drag) who has sex with a water-filled doll by injecting his blood into it. He/she also murders real

for Corman, more expensive (\$800,000) but less memorable. And then came the years before Raoul during which Bartel "was involved in a series of projects that never came to fruition." One was his own script, *Frankencar*, another a treatment of *Fletch*, which is finally being filmed—without Bartel's help—starring Chevy Chase.

"After five years it was really making me crazy," he says. He wrote *Eating Raoul* for his pal Mary Woronov and himself, and begged enough scrap film to shoot a few minutes of it. The going never got easy, but the \$500,000 comedy got finished and made money.

The next logical step—we're talking Hollywood logic—is a sequel. Bartel has the script, *Bland Ambition*, in which "Paul and Mary Bland run for Governor of California." Financing was set but fell through, and he's presently looking for new sources.

Accustomed to economizing, Bartel says he wouldn't turn down a big budget, but found the \$3 million of his latest efforts "a very comfortable amount to work with. It allows me a slightly exaggerated salary which is nevertheless reasonable considering how long I worked for peanuts."

One difference the money made to *Not for Publication*, he says, is that "It meant we could have a musical number." That number, "You Bring Out the Beast in Me," was written by Bartel and composer/coscripter John Meyer, and is sung by Nancy Allen and David Naughton in funny animal costumes at an orgy.

One of the film's highlights, the number might be considered "camp" by some people; but Bartel resists having that label applied to his work. "I think that 'camp' is basically a critical concept," he says. "I don't think people set out to make camp—at least the people I know. A movie that's intended satirically could be perceived as camp."

What about, for instance, the "fabulous fifties furniture" in the Blands' apartment in *Eating Raoul*?

"The achievement of camp or campiness wasn't what we had in mind when we did that," the

"Lust in the Dust is . . . 'like a demented Sergio Leone western . . . with lots of close-ups of Tab's eyes.'"

women.

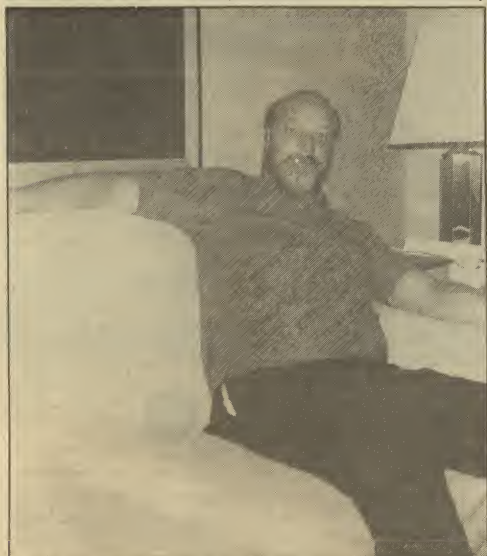
Despite—or because of—this indication of what to expect, Roger Corman hired Bartel to direct a cheap (\$500,000), quick *Rollerball* ripoff called *Death Race 2000*, which starred David Carradine and a pre-Rocky Sylvester Stallone. Who could not have predicted stardom for that Italian stallion when, as a futuristic gladiator, he was told at dinner, "I happen to hold the power of life and death," and he retorted, "Oh yeah! Well, I happen to hold the clam sauce!" and threw it at his tormentor?

Next came *Cannonball*, also

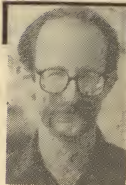
director replies. "We were trying to make a comment on the characters."

However you define it, there's something about Bartel's humor that makes his movies easily distinguishable from everyone else's. He shrugs: "It's my sensibility and I'm stuck with it."

Could that be a Gay sensibility, perhaps? Bartel responds by disclosing his sexual orientation, but says that it's "not for publication." "I think everyone knows," he adds, but he can't resist working the film title into the conversation one more time.



Paul Bartel (Photo: S. Warren)



EVEN IN BABYLON

Cartoon Tune In

JOHN F. KARR

My mother kindly decided not to give her favorite name, Katherine, to her daughter, fearing the girl would be called Kitti Karr all her life. While that spared my sister, it did nothing for me. Throughout my school years I was variously the effeminate and dreaded Kitti Karr, the silly Kabburetor or Kabbuncle, the insulting Karrcass, or, most frequently, the outlandish and theatrical Karrtoon.

Can a whiff of *Kismet* in that last nickname explain my life-long fascination with cartoon art and comic books? After all, the other names didn't wield any *forza del destino*. I haven't gone into auto repair, gem collecting, or necrophilia. But comics combined my love of books, theater and movies in a condensed form that was so gratifyingly immediate. A comic demands we suspend disbelief with its first panel; we accept its style as reality immediately, travelling to fantasy quicker than the setup of film can accomplish and without the effort or education needed to read books.

I quickly progressed beyond "Casper the Ghost" and "Superman"—although the bodybuilding ads inside the back cover were as stimulating to me at age eight as commercial porn is at my present, considerably more convoluted age—to "Krazy Kat" reprints. I rejoiced in the late '60s explosion of underground comics. Finally, there was an adult view, an anything-goes medium, and a clear view of our distorted reality.

And in one instance, simply a long-overdue view: along came *Gay Comix*. In 1980, publisher Denis Kitchen, himself heterosexual, thought it was time his Kitchen Sink company added a Gay comic to its list, which included *Bizarre Sex*, *Dope Comix*, and *Homegrown Funnies*. With popular cartoonist Howard Cruse as editor, *Gay Comix* was hailed. When Cruse "retired" after four issues, San Francisco graphic artist and cartoonist Robert Triptow was named editor. When I talked with Triptow about *Gay Comix* #5, the first issue he edited, he revealed a refreshing view of one man's place in the Gay community as well as some concern for the future of *Gay Comix* itself.

"If sales don't pick up," Triptow said bluntly, "future issues might not be justified."

While sales have recently fallen for most underground titles, *Gay Comix* faces problems not encountered by the others.

"People see underground comics as fossils, relics of the '60s," said Triptow, "and the number of sales outlets has fallen. There are fewer head shops, and many of these are homophobic about stocking *Gay Comix*. It has its best sales in Gay stores, which means that it needs an entirely different distribution network from the other Kitchen Sink titles. So, many prime sales outlets haven't been approached."

The comic's infrequent publication schedule causes some store owners, more attuned to rapid turnover, to be reluctant to allow it months of shelf space. Another ironic problem is the boycott imposed by many feminist bookstores on the first issue in 1980, which is still in ef-

fect. They objected to the display of male genitalia, and although both feminists and the comic have changed greatly, the boycott stands. Triptow, however, is optimistic the comic will soon reach a wider audience.

"Issue 6, due next March, is our strongest issue yet," he enthused. "The content is changing. The early issues weren't funny, with a certain 'whiny' attitude and an emphasis on fear and persecution. I've reassessed our audience, which I feel is urban oriented. We're moving toward more humor and a healthy sexuality, although we aren't a sex magazine."

Triptow's attitude reflects the increasingly mainstream orientation of Gay life. He was raised in Salt Lake City, a place he deems excessively repressive. Despite his environment, he viewed coming out as an expansion of his world, allowing him to meet new people. "It was a door opening," he said.

"I hope *Gay Comix* will

represent my expansive view of Gay life. While stressing humor, I'm into tragedy, too. But the outlook must be fresh. I want people to say 'What!'; to stop and think. The magazine, as entertaining as we can make it, is a forum for individual human beings to comment on Gay life."

Triptow's own work has appeared in earlier issues, and is familiar locally, though anonymously, through his designs for the Castro Theatre Science Fiction Film Series brochure, and the whimsical Golden Gate Romance comic he devised to sell subscriptions to the Best of Broadway series. A current project is a collaboration with Armistead Maupin and Scott Rankine on a comic version of Maupin's "Jackie Oh" serial.

His views have already brought an invigorating, contemporary slant to *Gay Comix*. Issue 5, for example, includes sly satire by Howard Cruse and Michael Goldberg (a strip originally published in the *Bay Area Reporter*), a soap opera called "Revenge of the Yenta," an expose of Winnie Winkle's ordeal to keep her 60-year-old strip from turning Gay, and a deliciously vulgar surprise ending to a Lesbian satire called "Hot Summer Night."

All five issues of *Gay Comix* are available at the Walt Whitman Bookstore.



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TALES OF TESSI TURA

From the House of Strauss

GEORGE HEYMONT

For authors and composers alike, the constant task of exploring an existing vocabulary of words and sounds, using these tools to shape new ideas, honing one's creative skills to perfection, and attempting to develop a uniquely personal style of writing represents nothing less than the artistic challenge of a lifetime. Many try to climb the mountain. Only the truly great talents succeed in establishing a creative rhythm and sound which is so unmistakably their own.

In opera, the great composers are quickly and easily identified. Mozart, Verdi, Wagner, and Puccini come to mind in a flash. Often overshadowed by the fame of his predecessors is Richard Strauss—a composer who, in his music, so often captures the essence of corruption, evil, and disease as well as the most ethereal passions of the heart, mind, and soul. This composer's music bursts from the page with equally inspired amounts of animal energy and intellectual strength. His contribution to history needs no apology.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

Years ago, a friend sent me a wonderfully poignant cartoon which showed a man looking up from his hospital bed and telling his doctor "In that case, could I just hear the trio from Der Rosenkavalier one more time?" The cartoon perfectly captured the poignant appeal of Strauss' opera, the wistful grace with which the Marschallin must relinquish her claim on Octavian's heart, and the delicate pain she feels in recognizing she must step aside to make way for the younger and more attractive Sophie. For opera queens around the world, the quest for the quintessential performance of Strauss' opera is like chasing after the purest cocaine or the ultimate in chocolate decadence. True, one can never be absolutely sure of finding perfection. But one can feed one's soul for years to come on the basis of a few rare brushes with nirvana.

Nirvana pierced through the smog in Southern California this fall when Los Angeles Opera Theatre mounted one of those intoxicating, once-in-a-lifetime productions of Der Rosenkavalier within the intimate confines of the 1,200-seat Wilshire-Ebell

Theatre. To her credit, Johanna Dordick produced an evening which was so wonderfully cast, so deliciously directed, and so sumptuously sung that—jet lag notwithstanding—it made my heart take wing with delight.

Some general directors doggedly pursue quality. Others do not. If I've constantly sung the praises of Los Angeles Opera Theatre, it's because this feisty young company continually succeeds in producing quality opera on a tiny budget. Working with a fraction of the resources available to the mightier San Francisco Opera, Dordick pulled off an artistic triumph which was easily ten times greater than anything seen on the stage of the War Memorial Opera House this fall. As with her recent production of Die Fledermaus, Miguel Romero designed the understated, but remarkably effective sets. Henry Holt caressed and cajoled his orchestra into delivering some truly breathtaking results.

Sung in English and directed with great insight, wit, and style by Hans Hartleb, this Rosenkavalier boasted the finest Baron Ochs I ever have encountered. Acting with porcine provincialism, Eric Garrett was a ribald, ass-grabbing Ochs—the kind of man audiences love to hate yet can't help loving. For her first time in the role of Octavian, Susan Quittmeyer was simply phenomenal, out-singing and outbutchering Tatiana Troyanos to the point of perfection. Cheryl Parrish was a saucy dumpling of a Sophie. Winifred Faix-Brown was a radiantly sexy Marschallin.

For all parties involved, this production was not only a job well done, but an outstanding achievement in music theater which could set artistic standards for many of the nation's regional opera companies. Believe me, if I could see more performances produced on the level of this Rosenkavalier, I would be a much happier man.

BLOOD, GORE AND LOTS MORE

Back at home, the San Francisco Opera's revival of Elektra represented the best work seen onstage at the War Memorial Opera House in the first seven weeks of the 1984 fall season. Alas, that's not too much of a

compliment. Terry McEwen's casting proved to be most uneven, which left this listener feeling the elements of good work had been severely undermined by major mistakes which were quickly betrayed by their sheer mediocrity. As much as I hate to say this, the male principals—Peter Wimberger and Dennis Bailey—were utterly forgettable. Of the lesser roles, only mezzo-soprano Dolara Zajic stood out with her finely sung First Maid servant. Arbit Blatas highly sexualized costumes, and Regina Resnik's direction were often too broad and melodramatic.

Singing the title role for the first time in her stage career was Janis Martin, who displayed ample vocal heft, but often became squally in the top range. Elektra requires an intensely dramatic actress, which Martin is not. While the Sacramento-born artist displayed plenty of vocal stamina, her lack of a strong stage presence—she was often clumsy and mannered—proved to be a serious liability. Carol Neblett's full-voiced Chrysothemis sounded surprisingly fuzzy, with some noticeably garbled diction. As Klytemnestra, Viorica Cortez was a ferociously loud and malignant drag queen's delight.

The true excitement of the evening took place in the pit, where conductor Jeffrey Tate made the orchestra sing. I must admit my extreme disappointment that Terry McEwen did not see fit to rent subtitles for Elektra from the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto. Financially, the extra expense would have easily justified itself in terms of the increased accessibility and audience involvement. Artistically, the distracting lure of subtitles could have helped minimize some of this production's weaker points.

What this Elektra—like several other performances this season—pinpoints, is that although McEwen knows voices, he does not seem to have the overwhelming sense of theater (or how to run one) which is needed for the job of general director. Many have wondered if the situation boils down to asking whether the once-august San Francisco Opera is being run by a competent impresario/fundraiser/intendant, or by an aging opera queen attempting to live out his recording fantasies through a major arts institution.

Are we dealing with a case of the Empress's new clothes? The answer to this sad dilemma makes me less and less comfortable as time rolls on. ■



"Where's the beef?" asks Elektra (Janis Martin) when confronted with the men in San Francisco Opera's revival of the Strauss opera.

BACK TO BATON

Small Packages

Two recent concerts sponsored by the San Francisco Symphony prove special programming can not only attract large audiences, but satisfy them as well.

Neither event could have been less similar in content or more comparable in results. While one was a celebration of the baroque and the other an evening of modernism, both enjoyed notable success. Each concert amply displayed that brevity remains the soul of wit.

HIS SOUL DOTM MAGNIFY THE LORD

Johann Sebastian Bach's *Magnificat* has always been a favorite of mine. I never cease to marvel at the author's ability to say so much, so well, in such a short time.

The Symphony's festival honoring the composer's 300th birthday has been a delightful experience, with only minor flaws, that has fittingly celebrated the awesome range of the master's genius.

Hearing a beloved piece lovingly performed is a rare and special treat, so I must commend conductor Christopher Hogwood for his ability to elicit exact response from his performing forces while maintaining a sense of personal vision. Not all of the artists in his care were equal to his level of excellence, but it was happily apparent that everyone was giving it their best shot.

The orchestra, with the exception of trumpeter Glenn

Fischthal, played brilliantly. The Symphony Chorus, once so superior, gave another mediocre performance under Vance George's somewhat inept leadership, but at least one could sense the genuine involvement of the singers. Soloists were uniformly excellent, and counter-tenor Drew Minter made a strong impression with his startlingly pure voice and handsome appearance. Baritone David Thomas also pleased with his modulated tone and intelligent grasp of the text.

One audience member complained that Bach wasn't "big" enough, and her companion wryly noted that the glory of Bach doesn't include elephants. That's quite true, and one of my main reasons for loving his *Magnificat*. The piece manages to run the gamut from quiet reflection to thrilling exuberance, showing the master's seemingly inexhaustible ingenuity; never once becoming coarse or overly loud.

It might be that orchestra members have been playing the music of Bach for so many years that they require less rehearsal time to give good performances, or that they love and revere him as much as I. Whatever the reasons, the birthday celebration for J.S. has been a swell party that augurs well for the possibility of future festivals.

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

The fourth concert in the Symphony's New and Unusual Music Series gathered a healthy crowd in the funky Kabuki

Theatre at the Japan Center, and if the drafty auditorium couldn't warm our bodies, the enthusiasm of the performers managed to keep our blood circulating.

Composer Milton Babbitt is one of those modern writers who interests us with his cleverness and wit, influences some with his inventiveness, and also confounds not a few with the somewhat opaque quality of his intellectualism.

Close listening reveals a highly positive complexity and a logical extension of the atonality of Schoenberg. But there is no denying a little goes a long way, and the composer's works are usually sensibly brief.

Pianist Alan Feinberg gave terrific renditions of the very short "Playing For Time" and the slightly more elaborate "About Time." A performance of Babbitt's charming "Minute Waltz" ended a showcase that also included a reading of "Ariada Capo" for a quintet that featured Symphony all-stars Raymond Kobler and Peter Shelton. The audience was justly enthusiastic, and gave a warm response to conductor Stephen Mosko and the composer himself, who was happily in attendance.

Another living composer featured that night was Dane Rudhyar (also present in the audience). If his "Trois Chansons de Bilitis" seems less contemporary, it's because it was written in the years between 1916-18. The style is distinctly lyrical, with obvious admiration for Debussy's languid and rich coloration. Soprano Kate Rowland made an impressive showing with her gorgeous mane of copper penny hair and sensuous mezzo voice. The chamber orchestra backing her played with clarity and suitable moodiness.



Milton Babbitt

It's interesting to note that both composers physically look like the music they have written. Babbitt is everybody's favorite academic, all warmth and cozy intelligence, while Rudhyar looks every bit like the aging elegant sensualist born in the world of *fin de siècle* Paris and matured in the harder atmosphere of the California sun.

Finishing off the pleasurable program was a reading of Lou Harrison's Suite for Violin, Piano, and Chamber Orchestra. Harrison has always been something of a renegade in the musical establishment. His music has predated the current wave of minimalism and anticipated by some 50 years the justifiable interest in Balinese gamelan.

If the Suite seems almost too pretty for present tastes, one must remember it was some 30

years ahead of its time. Regardless of the Suite's placement in time, it's unquestionably beautiful music, with just enough tartness to avoid seeming overripe.

When Harrison was questioned about the less "authentic" feel of his older pieces—he has more recently composed directly for gamelan orchestras—he replied, "We exist, of course, in various states of ignorance."

Harrison's statement may be true of all of us, and that is why one listener may find Bach's *Magnificat* disappointingly "small" and another thinks Milton Babbitt is too intellectual. More educated ears can hear the importance of the composer's music and the San Francisco Symphony, with its recent performances, is going a long way towards furthering our appreciation.

FROM FIFTH POSITION

What is Democracy?

KEITH WHITE

The theme of Tim Miller's *Democracy in America*—the fourth program in the New Performance Gallery's 1984-85 American Inroads series—is exactly what its title suggests. Miller travelled around America with a video recorder, questioning people on the street about their concept of democracy. Those tapes are woven through the current performance, along with hundreds of Miller's and his cast's ideas on the subject. Yet the work is structured around certain statements or truisms, stated by Miller or other cast members. The first of these is "I am an American."

Miller's sentiments become progressively more personal as the evening continues, and during his occasional solo monologues, the piece threatens to bog down as a result of a certain naivete—as one audience member remarked, "We've heard it all before." Yet democracy, as the taped interviews reveal, has as many meanings as there are individuals to ask, and in a work so action-packed and experiential, one hasn't much time to evaluate.

Democracy in America is a performance piece staged on such a large scale that one is surrounded by it from the moment it begins without possibility of escape until it's over. There could never be an intermission. Within the first several minutes, a recorded soundtrack, still and video projections (simultaneously), and a company of around 20 performers had flooded the

space. The New Performance Gallery was set with giant, crinkled bills of U.S. currency—various denominations along the stage right wall—a large projection screen against the back wall, a rear-projection screen built to resemble a giant television downstage left, and various musical instruments at each extreme side of the stage floor. In this setting, thousands of images would fill the 70-minute piece.

One could argue the political importance of Miller's work, but that would be beside the point. Democracy seems an appropriately broad subject around which to stage a work of this complexity and scale. What it gave me, more important than a new or even familiar philosophical perspective, was an extremely entertaining evening.

There were outspoken contributions from the Gay cast members, and though the viewpoint of the work as a whole was grandly inclusive, the overall picture seemed projected through a distinctively Gay lens. Miller's 1981 *Live Boys*, in which he and his lover of the time, John Berndt, manifested their relationship before an audience at New York's P.S. 122, established him at the vanguard of New York's short-lived contingent of Gay dancers. That is the piece I'd most like to see. His current work is powerfully involving, has considerable humor, charm and innocence, and its myriad messages read as clearly as anything one can see.

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FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

Carmen

Opera-tional

We've been Carmen-ed excessively this year. First, there was the excellent Carlos Suares flamenco version, then there was the hideously self-indulgent version by Godard, then the San Francisco Opera's lamentable opus, and now the authentic film version of the opera by Francesco Rosi.

If there's anything missing from the films of Rosi it's passion, and a Carmen without passion is like a supermarket without aisles. In fact, only when Julia Migenes-Johnson is on screen do we get any glint of fire.

As operas go, this one is competently sung by Placido Domingo as the doomed Don Jose, Ruggero Raimondi as the torador Escamillo, and Faith Esham as the incredibly naive Micaela.

They all lipsync to a pre-recorded score, which is fine since the film was shot on location in Spain. What is a problem is that the chorus doesn't lipsync—they don't sing at all. We get disembodied voiceovers which prove to be disconcerting in some scenes.

Rosi's choice of shots is frustrating. He will hold a long distance one forever, and then switch to a closer one a beat too late and hold it. There were times when I wanted to yell "Cut!" at the screen. For a story

that occurs in the 19th century, it was amazing how Rosi was able to capture a jet crossing the sky and have fortune cards look like plastic laminated ones. But now I'm nitpicking. What I can't complain about is Carmen herself.

Julia Migenes-Johnson is the real reason to see this film. She's the incarnation of the character. She's licentious and catlike, the quintessential CT, and she plays it for all the role is worth. Then, of course, there is the Bizet score, which just flows in one long undulating, uninterrupted sweep. It's seductive and thrilling, and if you haven't been Carmened out yet, it's enough of reason to see/hear this film.

Rosi's style might not get you to say "Ole!", but Julia Migenes-Johnson's performance will.

(Bridge)

M. Lasky

A Nos Amours

Chacun a Son Gout

Suzanne, the 16-year-old heroine of A Nos Amours, is easy to screw but hard to love. In the course of the film she evolves from a B-movie slut to an A movie slut. For the '80s, that's character development.

When she's not bouncing from bed to bed, Suzanne lives at home with her crazy mother, her fat Gay brother and, until he runs off with his mistress, her father.

If A Nos Amours is intended

as a moralistic tale of wayward youth, we're supposed to take seriously the domestic scenes in which Suzanne and her family bite and scream at each other. This I defy anyone to do, the histrionic level being somewhat higher than on TV game shows.

On the other hand, if it's intended as a comedy, I must have missed the joke. There's hardly a pleasant moment in the picture, not even when the teenage bodies are writhing in joyless sex.

Downbeat movies about teenagers can be very good—L'Homme Blesse and Christiane F for example—when there's a tragic element involved; but no one in A Nos Amours deserves any better than they get.

Sandrine Bonnaire shows potential acting ability as Suzanne. Dominique Bresnehard plays her brother, who winds up marrying a woman either because she's rich or because she has a handsome brother. He's not exactly the kind of Gay character we've been clamoring for, but no one in A Nos Amours is much of a recommendation for heterosexuality either.

To make matters worse, the continuity is jumpy. New characters and situations are thrown at us without introduction or explanation. It's as if they took all the best scenes out of a six-hour miniseries and showed us the rest under the name A Nos Amours.

(Opera Plaza) S. Warren



Black on Black—Neurotic racist Karen Black is strangely attracted to servant John Kani in *The Grass Is Singing* (a.k.a. *Killing Heat*). Because it's a Swedish co-production, Black thinks she's Liv Ullmann and overacts accordingly, an impression that would work well in the context of the comedy this movie comes close to being—the Carol Burnett Show version of *Country and Places in the Heart*, with the setting moved to South Africa. ■ S. Warren

STAGE

Multiple Levels

by Bernard Spunberg

Exactly how far do our responsibilities to each other extend? Otherwise Engaged, an elegant and paradoxical comedy by Simon Gray, is currently in production at Berkeley Rep. Gray's play finds a successful publisher looking forward to a day immersed in a recording of Wagner's *Parsifal*.

One after another, the publisher's friends, relatives, and associates barge in on the music. An ornery punk rocker renting space in the attic begs for money and alcohol. A brother announces a lateral career move. A critic bitches. An author offers her body in exchange for publication. An old schoolmate threatens suicide. The publisher's wife announces the end of their marriage. Through it all, the publisher offers what first appears to be nothing more than token involvement with these

other lives. He seems cold and unfeeling. Gradually, however, playwright Gray achieves a reversal of sympathies. Far from unfeeling, the publisher turns out to be a man struggling to carve out a relationship with himself while maintaining integrity in relationships with others.

Under Richard White's directing, the production at Berkeley Rep underlines subtle shifts of character and relationship. As the publisher, David Booth's deadpan delivery slowly reveals a man of integrity and responsibility waging an interior war. Richard Rossi offers a delicately layered characterization of the schoolmate. Initially sincere and pathetic, he turns out to be a manipulative, parasitic monster. As the alcoholic critic, Tony Amendola sketches a vivid portrait of self-hating Gayness masked by homophobia.

Brian Thompson's portrayal of the brother treads the thin line between comical and pitiful. As the author, Michelle Morain, portrays a woman of ambition tempered by neither heart nor conscience. Hope Alexander-Willis presents a wife in search of love, passion, communication, and martyrdom.

David White's direction allows the drama to flow naturally, although the movement seems designed for a conventional proscenium stage rather than Berkeley Rep's thrust arrangement. William Bloodgood's set is lavish. Simon Gray's play is rich in character, theme, and language. Berkeley Rep is to be congratulated on a production that offers ample satisfaction on multiple levels. ■

Otherwise Engaged
Berkeley Rep
Through December 2; 845-4700

FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN



"Sorry, kid, even I can't save your career now."—Oh, God! You Devil is the third strike for Ted Wass (r.), after Curse of the Pink Panther and Sheena. The plot, about a songwriter selling his soul to the Devil, is older than George Burns, who plays both title roles. There's a fair share of easy laughs, but we're basically supposed to take the story seriously, and I'll be damned if I'm going to. (Galaxy, Stonestown) ■ S. Warren

Supergirl

Super tolerance

With Superman off visiting a remote galaxy, his cousin Supergirl makes a weak substitute for Superman IV. In the person of Helen Slater she falls to earth in pursuit of the omegahedron, the power source for her distant home planet of Argo. It's fallen into the hands of wicked witch Selena (Faye Dunaway), giving her a chance to realize her ambition: "I'm considering nothing less than world domination."

Supergirl—actually Kara—trades her Deneuve blond hair and the family uniform for mousy brown and the blazer of a girls' school, where she becomes Linda Lee, the roommate of Lois' sister, Lucy Lane. Exploring her unearthly powers, she does it in the sky and scares the horses, then discourages a

would-be rapist with a superkick to the nuts.

Aside from their feminist power struggle, Supergirl and witchy woman are fighting over hunky Hart Bochner, a meatball formed by crossing Sylvester Stallone with Richard Gere.

Dunaway's campiness, played at about half the intensity of Mommie Dearest, is the main reason you should see Supergirl—if you're into Batman re-runs. Brenda Vaccaro has a couple of good lines as her second banana, and you can draw your own conclusions about why they live together. Peter O'Toole appears briefly as Supergirl's Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Slater, in her blonde incarnation, and Bochner in any form, are a treat for the eyes of Gay viewers of their respective genders, while the other visual effects have become old hat.

The all new and quite service-

able musical score is by Jerry Goldsmith, the first one everybody calls when they can't get John Williams.

Supergirl isn't quite a flop, but two hours of camp without wit behind it requires super-tolerance. ■

(Alexandria, Stonestown) S. Warren

Stop Making Sense

Start Making Music

Filming concerts always has its limitations. The film audience is always on the outside looking in, not actually participating in the live event. We just sit watching people perform and another audience watching people perform.

So, whoever films the concert has to be pretty clever to come up with a way of capturing the performance and the music to make us feel like we're there.

Jonathan Demme (Melvin and Howard/Swing Shift) has almost done that with his direction of the Talking Heads concert. Using eight cameras that rarely show us the audiences the group performed before, he takes us right into the performance. We are bathed in the musician's energy. Lead singer David Byrne has always tried to come off as demented, and Demme has not only captured this, but actually magnified it so that Byrne appears ready for the straitjacket.

The songs recorded in direct-to-film, digital 24-track stereo encapsulate you in sound, enhancing the "you are there" feeling so often missing from concert films. There are 16 songs, all extended versions of the way they are performed on Talking Heads' records. As concert films go, Stop Making Sense comes closest to successfully achieving presence. Both the invigorating camera work and the spectacular sound start making sense as ways to bring us closer to the actual event, even though it occurred three days last December in Hollywood. ■

(North Point) M. Lasky



Bewitching Faye Dunaway and superpowered Helen Slater have what should be (but isn't) the greatest magic duel since The Sword in the Stone, in Supergirl.

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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

FITNESS EIGHTIES

Leo Withers

**Cigarettes and Booze at 20,
Marathons at 40**

by Paul Trefzger

Leo Withers, at 40, is an enthusiastic, accomplished runner. He's run 13 full marathons and an innumerable amount of local races—Bay to Breakers, 10 K's, and 5 K's. His current goal is the London Marathon in April. The allure is that it will be his first international marathon. To build up to it, he'll do the Honolulu Marathon in a month.

Leo's job is certainly no hindrance to his sport. He is in his 17th year with Western Airlines as an Airport Passenger Service Representative.

"I've been fortunate enough to have traveled all over the world," he said. His current shift, however, is 5:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. "When I wake, I have time to have coffee, read, and feed the cat. I run in the afternoon from about 2:45 to 4:45 or until it gets dark. I pick different parts of the city. That makes it interesting, as well as healthy. It may be hilly or flat."

Withers and a running buddy, Bill Bettencourt, had plans to attend the Paris Marathon last spring, but were booked to fly and stand-by. They had trained extensively and were really "up" for the race. Then the unthinkable. No stand-by seats, and they were left standing, all packed for Europe, in the Baltimore, Maryland World Airways terminal. As consolation to themselves, they took in Washington, D.C., Boston, and New York, but were home within a week.

Leo ran his first marathon as a Master a couple of weeks ago. His being 40 put him in the category and he was proud of his time, which was three hours and 16 minutes. To qualify for the Boston Marathon in April (one of the few with a qualifying time) he must get down to three hours and 10 minutes, but he's not concerned. He plans to accomplish that in January in Newport, RI.

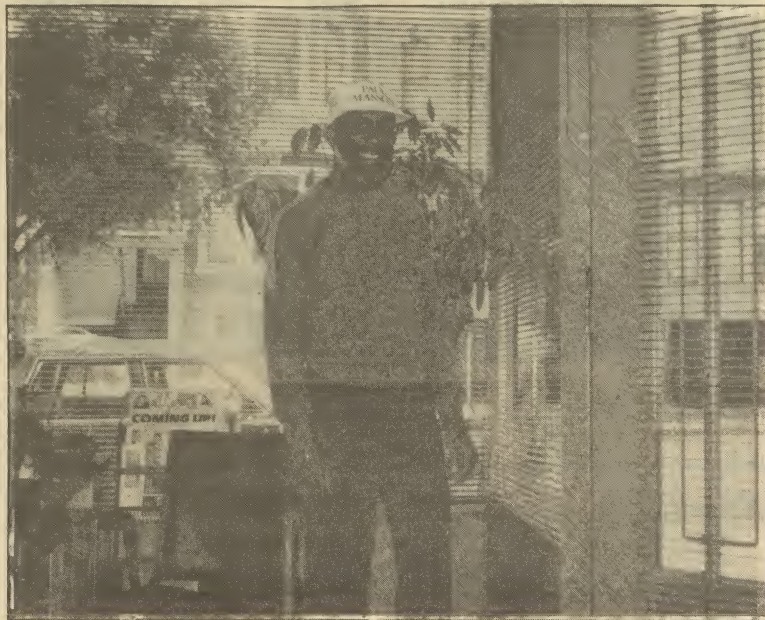
I asked if he has ever been one of the front runners and placed

in a prominent position. It apparently is not one of Withers' priorities.

"Everyone places," he said. "It's just, I guess, that I'm not so gung-ho a runner to want to be up there at the front of the pack. I hope I don't become one of those 'money people.' To me, it's really self-rewarding just to run in and to finish the race. It also has something to do with being Black and Gay. And part of it is living in San Francisco with its diverse population and attitudes. It's a healthy feeling. Through running I've made friends, I'm in much better health, and I've done a lot of traveling. I'm hoping more Gay people will 'take up the torch' and start running. A man who was fifty-five came up to me when I was running on Arguello when he saw my Oakland Run t-shirt. He was Gay and anxious to talk. He was proud because at his age he had done it. He stuck to it."

Leo was born in Berkeley on August 28, 1944. He ran the mile and in relays in high school. Then in his junior year he began smoking, "and that was it." Between then and 1978 he came out, tried New York and "got homesick," avoided the military by admitting he was Gay, and did a lot of heavy drinking and cigarette smoking.

"I used it for a crutch," he said. "For example, flying, I'd smoke to 'calm down' after the



Leo Withers

plane had taken off and then I'd have a Scotch. Then more cigarettes and more Scotch. In one instance I had to be taken off the plane in a wheelchair, I got warnings from my physician and my dentist. When I did quit smoking, I started to gain weight. Friends at work who were running encouraged me to do the same. I did and lost a lot of weight."

Now he's way ahead of his colleagues at work.

"If I'm working regular hours, I'll run fifteen to twenty miles in the morning and then take a nice long shower and I'm

full of energy. It keeps me rational, on top of things and feeling good."

"My whole attitude about food and drink has changed. No more heavy stuff... red meats. I eat lighter foods—chicken, fish, grains, breads, salads. No hard liquor—white wines and champagne. And I insist on a beer after a run."

I inquired as to whether or not Leo was a member of any running club or organization.

"I did one Gay Run here in the city three years ago," he said. "I'm not a member because I really do more running, but I was really impressed with

the number of Gay people running now. I think it has a lot to do with the new health consciousness. I love to see Gay people running with their t-shirts advertising it. And for me personally, just the accomplishment of finishing marathons, the high you get... it makes my heart throb. You see, I never really did anything well in my younger life. I seldom get depressed now. Things that once would've gotten me down don't now. It's funny. If you'd have told me ten years ago I'd be doing this now, I'd have laughed in your face. I've got my marathon finishing certificates all framed and up on the wall." ■

TIRE TRACKS

Gay and Lesbian Cycling Comes of Age

JERRY FORD

Gay and Lesbian cyclists are becoming an increasingly familiar sight on the streets and highways in and around San Francisco. Once only a widely scattered tribe of free-wheeling nomads having to fight for room amidst thundering herds of autos, trucks, and busses, we have recently banded together, adding a new, exciting dimension to our cycling pursuits in the form of clubs and organizations actively promoting this two-wheeled sport. Three of these groups, the Gay Games Cycling Committee, Different Spokes bicycle club, and Women on Wheels bicycle club, now offer enjoyment of cycling to the enjoyment of organizational and promotional projects. In an atmosphere of mutual support bolstered by a shared love of cycling, we are all deriving much pleasure and experience from these endeavors, and eagerly extend our open invitation to participate.

This is the first in a series of articles being presented by the Gay Games Cycling Committee as an integral part of its educa-

tion and outreach campaign. Covering the multiple aspects of good cycling and written by various committee and club members, they will provide helpful, practical, and informative instruction, such as how to select a proper bicycle for your needs, how to set up and maintain your bike, safe riding techniques, and touring-racing training tips. Also scheduled are nutrition-related topics and regular announcements of events and updates on the progress of projects underway. Highlighted and emphasized are the many activities in which we encourage you to participate. It is an excellent opportunity to assist in a popular movement and in an exhilarating sport simultaneously. Come check us out.

Gay Games Cycling Committee

We are all working very hard, and enjoyably as well, to present the Gay Games II Cycling Competition in 1986. A series of events to promote the '86 competition, and to promote cycling in general, is being planned and

will be announced shortly. The Games Cycling competitions are being carefully planned to satisfy and challenge the riders, and to engross and thoroughly entertain spectators. The events leading up to the Games will themselves ignite many a fire in the hearts of cyclists, supporters, and the general public, too. These events will include clinics (tune-ups, training), social events (movies, bike-fests, bike-a-thons), and cycling contests. We are busily networking Gay and Lesbian cycling groups both nationally and worldwide (quite a project) and are gearing up to aid and support the development of more clubs, teams, and regional committees. All interested men and women willing to offer time, support, services, or resources are urged to join us. Equally composed and representative of men and women, we are looking ahead with optimism to the long-range goal of creating a National Gay/Lesbian Cycling Alliance. So many dreams to transform into reality. Please contact: Kimbyl Ed-

cont. on next page

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Members of Different Spokes served as pacers for Gay Run '84 (Photo: Rink)

cont. from previous page

wards at 753-5454 or Jerry Ford at 864-5518 for further information, or call the Gay Games Office at 861-8282. We want to hear from you.

Different Spokes

This bicycle club has steadily grown in number and popularity, and also recognition. It has contributed much to local Gay/Lesbian cycling, with some national recognition as well. The club now offers cyclists a wide variety of activities and rides of differing purpose and skill level. As one of the leaders of cycling promotion in the San Francisco area, the club provides the cyclists and would-be-cyclists with a support group and a source of guidance and training from within the Gay/Lesbian community. All cyclists should consider joining a club, and Different Spokes is an excellent

choice. Regular notices of weekend rides and other activities are well described in the sports section and calendar section of the *Bay Area Reporter*. For more in-depth information, please contact Michael Johns at 550-8121.

Women on Wheels

This women's bicycle club has also come far, providing women cyclists in the San Francisco area with an outstanding club sensitive to the needs and interests of women. There are 40 or so members currently extending their invitation to all interested cyclists to join them. Women on Wheels conducts several types of rides, from short, day rides, to overnights and week-long tours. All skill levels are represented, from beginners to advanced, providing guidance, instruction,

and support to all prospective and current riders. Please contact Sharon Landee at 221-3345 for further information.

★ ★ ★

In closing, we all share the hope, joy, and aspiration of helping bring the fullest range of cycling opportunity to all of you in the San Francisco area. The three groups mentioned are working in tandem to broaden the spectrum of invigorating, strengthening activities available to Lesbians and Gay men. It's that during this time of urgency around the AIDS epidemic, it is essential to, in coping, focus also on the well-springs of life-supporting strength and vitality we all have within us. Striving to maintain this focus is important because, I feel, it will surely help us to better deal with and overcome this crisis—and we must deal with it and we shall overcome it. Fostering an increased sense of overall well-being and peace of mind, cycling provides an excellent means of experiencing and observing our world while simultaneously fortifying and conditioning the body, reducing stress build-up. We hope to inspire your further investigation and participation in the joys of cycling. Happy trails. ■

J. Ford

TGWEDNESDAYNBL

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

Tavern Guild Bowler Named Mr. CMC Carnival

David Stoll, of the SF Eagle II team, topped off achieving his first 200+ game of the season (234) on Nov. 7 by winning the Mr. CMC Carnival title on Nov. 11. Of course, one cannot see the attributes that permit him to excel on the lanes, but after one glance, one certainly has no difficulty understanding why he was selected to be Mr. CMC Carnival. Guests demonstrated their support for each contestant by means of financial contributions which were, in turn, donated to the aspirants' favorite charity.

David has much more in his favor than mere good looks, however. He also glows with a charming humility that adds immensely toward the creation of a genuine congenial atmosphere. A better choice for the title of Mr. CMC Carnival would be very difficult to find.

Speaking of better, the Wednesday league had better watch out. The Monday league average is only 20 pins behind and, with a couple good nights, it is quite possible that, for the first time since I can remember, the Monday league may challenge the Wednesday league average. The unthinkable has become a distinct possibility.

Fortunately, the 14th was a pretty good night for the

TGWBL, and these high 200+ rollers may have added a few more pins to the sagging league average.

R. Bremner	(626 series)	227	207
S. Christian		227	
J. DeYoung	(622 series)	205	224
D. Hobler		221	
D. Latt		214	
A. Stenson		208	
A. Price		207	
F. Cloutier		204	
M. Lamberta		203	201
A. Colon		202	
B. Mack		201	
L. Hills		201	
E. Tuff		200	

As you all probably know, the Cable Car ceremonies will be coming up shortly, and there will be awards presented covering many fields of endeavor, bowling being among them. If you would care to nominate a person as the outstanding bowling personality of 1984, the league officers have the official blanks on which to record your nominee and reason(s) for choosing that person.

Your nomination need not be an outstanding bowler, just a bowler who you feel best represents the spirit of Gay bowling. So, during the Thanksgiving holiday, why not mull it over, and when we return to Park Bowl on Nov. 28, nominate a deserving bowler. ■

TGTHURSDAYNBL

ROBERT E. JAHNIGEN

After eight weeks of play, The Tavern Guild Thursday Night League is the most balanced League in the city because only 10 games separate the first and last teams. In last week's action, one team swept its series, two teams split, and seven teams took three out of four games.

On rushing C.D.C. knocked off league leader Schmidt Insurance three games to one. Richard Riley's 511 paced the winners, while Ron Herzog's 481 was high for Schmidt.

Bracco Distributing was another three-game winner as they polished off Fourplay to move into second place in the standing. Greg Cassinelli fired a 569 series, while Mike Eyster had a 483.

The Krewe climbed out of third place by taking three games from the Pig Pins. Mike Ehrlicher's 459 lead the victors, while Dan Perez's 400 series was not enough for the Piglettes.

The Queen Mary's Pub nailed down fourth place on a three-game victory over the Fourkeeps. Charley Garrett's 506 lead QMP, while Glen Terrio's 554 was high for the losers.

EJESP caught Ron's Records

napping, as that team also took three games. Randy Tirri lead the way with a 547, while Roger Rigney's 520 was tops in the match.

Febe's split with The White Horse to hold onto sixth place. Allen Dale's 530 series lead Febe's while Ken Fendrick's 497 lead the Horsemen.

The Floppy Disks swept Park Bowl to move up to 9th place. Mederos Bedrosian's hot 569 lead the Floppies, while Ed Barido's 461 was short for the losers.

Trax Maniax collided with Trax #1, taking three games, Dwayne Thomas rolled a 439 for the winners, while Jim Altman lead a balanced Maniax attack with a 395.

Action concluded as The Special appears to have gotten back in the groove by taking three games from the Four Little Pigs. Darrell Thomas lead the winners with a 411, while John Woods paced the losers with a 449.

This week's action pits eight fairly even opponents, and should be an interesting prelude to the following week's position round. ■

SCOREBOARD

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES TEAM STANDINGS & PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

TG MONDAY LEAGUE (Week 6 of 21 - as of 11/12/84) League Average: 714

1. Park Bowl	18	6
2. San Francisco Gym	18	6
3. Renegade	16	8
4. Deluxe Pickups	16	8
5. Grand Central Station	15	9
6. Gays of Our Lives	15	9
7. Top Billing	14½	9½
8. Welcome Home	14	10
9. Perfect Petals	14	10
10. G. Kelly Drvg Acad	13	11
11. Pilsner Pntlss Sisters	13	11
12. Capricorn Coffees	12	12
13. Community Rentals	11½	12½
14. Amazing Six Graces	9	15
15. Ethel Mertz Mem.	8	16
16. Transferstites	8	16
17. Men's Room	7	17
18. Team #6	0	28

TG WEDNESDAY LEAGUE (Week 6 of 22 - as of 11/14/84) League Average: 734

1. Pilsner II	20	4
2. Park Bowl	18	6
3. Pilsner Pntlss Sisters	16	8
4. Pendulum Pieces	15	9
5. Cafe Sn. Marcos	15	9
6. Animals	14	10
7. Pendulum	14	10
8. Can We Bowl?	14	10
9. DK's Unmntnbls	13	11
10. S.F. Eagle	12½	11½
11. Sweet Inspiration	12	12
12. Play With It Ltd.!!!	11½	12½
13. Pilsner #1	11	13
14. Pilsner Potlickers	10	14
15. Pilsner Slezee Balls	10	14
16. Rams Head Bar	10	14
17. Sunbry's Tooth Fairies	9	11
18. Grady's	8	16
19. Pilsner Penguinettes	8	12
20. S.F. Eagle II	7	13
21. Scenic Hyway Tours	7	17
22. PWIL/Japantown	4	20

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BAY AREA REPORTER B.A.R. BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS

Michael Greer: Leatherman of the '80s

Mr. Leather of San Diego IV was selected from a field of five contestants last Saturday night, Nov. 17, and becomes the first entry in the competition for International Mr. Leather in Chicago next May. His name is Rich Jamieson and at 29 years of age, this leather Libra man is 6 feet tall and weighs 170 lbs., topped with a mane of dark red hair and hazel eyes, with interests that range from dabbling in art and weight lifting, to tinkering with cars.

With a video backdrop of Intl. Mr. Leather's contest in Chicago, the array of contestants went through the paces of three appearances in "do your own thing," swim suit attire, and total leather, while MC Fred Acheson (owner of the Loading Zone) supplied the verbiage that brought out the personalities of the contestants. Ron Moore, current Intl. Mr. Leather, flew in from Denver to share the judging responsibilities with outgoing Mr. San Diego Leather Mark Holmes and myself. While all this was going on, several San Franciscans were in

town too to attend a huge gathering of men into rubber/latex at a soiree that proved there's more bounce to the ounce when you're in rubber.

The leather weekend in San Diego also encompassed an AIDS fundraiser by Hard Labor Leathers at the Loading Zone and BULC (that's CLUB spelled backwards), probably the only leather dance bar on the entire West Coast. Saturday morning, the CCMC (California Cyclemen Motorcycle Club) had a run to Tecate at Noon and ended up at the Hole, followed by a cocktail party at the home of Jay Westfall for the contestants, sponsors, judges and the press. A small, but energetic crowd of leathermen showed up at Mr. Dillon's for the contest with a kegger at the Loading Zone afterward and a splendid brunch at the Boardwalk Cafe Sunday morning. Another kegger at PECS in the patio rounded out the event. It's safe to say that there is a viable leather community in San Diego with the same intents, goals, and purposes as ours, and what they lack in size, they more than



The contestants vie to be Mr. Leather San Diego IV (Photo: Marcus)

make up for in enthusiasm. It was a pleasurable sight to see hot leather men dancing up a storm at the BULC Bar. I highly recommend the Boardwalk Cafe for dinners and brunch, and for an elegant and accommodating respite, your best bet for lodging is the Balboa Park Inn—close to the zoo and Balboa Park. It's

one of those little jewels of a hostelry with practically everything within arm's reach—including some very hot sailors and marines. I do want to thank the leather community of San Diego for its very warm reception and masculine attitude. Quite frankly—more than you could ever expect. Yes, leather is alive and doing quite well in "Blandiego"—(their words.)

ALL THIS AND HEAVEN, TOO!

It's Thanksgiving weekend and you should not be lulled into lethargy just because you overate, overdrank, and overpartied. To drag you out of the doldrums of cranberries, pumpkin pie, turkeys, ducks, and capons, the creative forces at CHAPS have lined up a weekend of top-notch entertainment, including the fabulously funny Tom Ammiano, Danny Williams, Jane Dornacker, Val Diamond, Mary Buffett and Michael Greer to name a few

(see Chaps' ad in this issue). Michael Greer will transform Mona Lisa into Mona Leather, and his all-new act should be a riot for those who share intimacies with leather and the leather lifestyle. After all, if we can't laugh at ourselves, what good is life? Furthermore, Chaps will kick off its annual tree-lighting ceremony for the patients in Ward 5-B on Sunday, Dec. 2 with a rousing show featuring the one and only Sharon McNight for a \$5 donation, beginning at 5 p.m., so get your act together for that one. On Friday, Nov. 30, the California Motor Club (CMC) will hold its open meeting at the SF Eagle beginning at 9 p.m., at which time, all the monies raised by the Mr. Carnival contestants earlier this month will be distributed to the charities, so don't miss seeing first-hand exactly where your vote money went that you gave to your favorite contestant at the Carnival. Due to a mix-up at the printer's, the Bare

cont. on next page

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VAL DIAMOND

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Thursday, Nov 22

Thanksgiving Day

9 PM

BAR OPENS 2 PM

DANNY WILLIAMS
and

ALICIA DANIELS

and

MARGA GOMEZ

and

MARY BUFFETT

"My Boyfriend's Back"

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Sunday, Nov. 25

7 PM

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and

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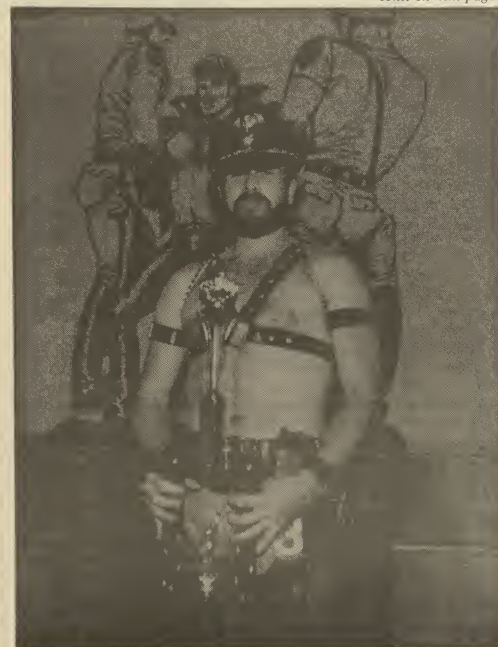
\$6 COVER



Coming Soon: CHAPS 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
Ceremony for Ward 5-B, Dec. 2 with Sharon McNight

MARK ABRAHAMSON, ENTERTAINMENT COORDINATOR

PIANO COURTESY OF R. KASSMAN



Rick Jamieson, winner of the Mr. Leather San Diego IV contest (Photo: Marcus)



BOOK RACK

Canterbury, It's Not

The Symposium: An Entertainment
by Geoffrey Robert Simm
Paperback - \$6.95
Knights Press

by Frank Howell

"... Certainly there was a closeness, a deeper sense of feeling between his guests today than at any other party he'd thrown. It was a good feeling. He had been affected by it himself throughout the day. It made him feel quietly proud that he had created so much enjoyment. Well done, Plato!, he thought. You old sonofabitch!"

Many of us are at least familiar with the timeless *Canterbury Tales* of the Middle Ages by Geoffrey Chaucer. A group of diverse people are traveling about and attempt to ease the hardships of the journey by relating stories to each other. These tales, both beautiful and profane, have become beloved classics.

Geoffrey Robert Simm conceived the idea of a *Canterbury Tales* for our own times. The concept is delightful, but unfortunately the execution of this charming plan is only partially successful.

Alex and Philip, a middle aged and comfortably-fixed Gay couple, live in a luxurious home

about 100 miles outside of London. They invite six of their male friends for a relaxing weekend in the sauna and elsewhere. Alex and Philip tell their guests ahead of time that each one of them must tell a story during their stay.

Simm provides an enchanting portrait of Gay men at play. At the same time, we see individuals attempting to discover a new range of intimacy with each other. The characterizations are skin deep, but relaxing.

But the major disappointment is the tales themselves. In most instances, we are merely given mood pieces or fragments instead of fully rounded chronicles.

In "Twelve Hours," for example, a young Gay man riding on a bus manages to successfully cruise a handsome French truck driver. The implication is that they will deepen their relationship in the future, but we are left hanging.

A similar plot concerns two Confederate soldiers during the Civil War who find comfort in each other's company. But again, Simm does not follow through. Other themes revolve around an implied father-son incest, a boy and a lifeguard, a Gay vampire, and a dense allegory about a goldfish.

The Symposium is an arresting concept, but those who cooked up *Arabian Nights* need not feel they face deathless competition. Simm lays out the perfect dinner setting. But when we sit down to partake and crack open the egg, we are confronted with a shallow, colorless interior with little nourishment. Perhaps contemporary writers need to reread *The Canterbury Tales* for a rejuvenating sensation. Perhaps they should sit at the feet of an old master like Somerset Maugham.

Try again, Mr. Simm. You might turn storytelling into a whole new direction.

already and still adding on... Down Los Angeles way, A Different Light bookstore will be celebrating its 5th Anniversary next week. The significance of this item is that the *Bay Area Reporter* has been distributed in Southern California through that store for several years now, and many an ex-San Franciscan makes a weekly pilgrimage there to keep up with the news in The City...

WITH THE UTMOST DISH-CRETION

Latest new couple in the neighborhood—Phyllis and Deanna, a match made in the shadowy confines of Pier 45; Phyllis' aviary fetish ranges from ducks to pigeons, alas. Since I wasn't in town for the GDI's big Minsky's show at the Palace of Fine Arts, I cannot comment on what I heard floating around the bars on Folsom Sunday night after I got back... I finally got to meet John Preston of Mr. Benson fame and other noteworthy tomes in one of the local pubs only because when I went to the Castro area to get my book autographed Saturday afternoon, alas, I couldn't find the Studstore on Castro. Is there a Studstore on Castro? I'll have to ask Robert

Payne about that. Funny side item: When David (Stella) Stoll arrived at the SF Eagle two Sundays ago after winning the Mr. Carnival Contest to work his shift, manager Terry Thompson was heard to say: "Congratulations, my dear. And I'll give you exactly THREE days to get OVER being a star!" That may sound cold, but we're wondering, wondering (and so is STELLA)... Loud guffawing at CHAPS last Sunday night: Q. "Which number at Minsky's got the biggest ovation?" A. "There's Gotta Be Something Better Than This"—as Randy Johnson would say: "It's camp dear, it's camp"... The new bar that's SUPPOSED to be opening across the street from the AMBUSH has changed its name already and may be named THE THROB (?). Is that as in Heart or Hard?

★ ★ ★
Anyway, you all have a good Turkey Trot Day—hope you won one at the Arena or at the SF Eagle. Until we meet on these pages again next week, remember: The perils of duck hunting are great; especially for the duck. See you around the—grounds.

Mister Marcus

Gay Erotica

Los Angeles—Drake's, a newly renovated high-tech video/book store in the heart of the Melrose, is what partner Steve West calls "the retailing concept of erotica in the '80s." As with the evolution of Gay bars from holes-in-the-walls to elaborate discos, there was a necessity for a retail outlet where persons could purchase erotica in a clean, safe, pleasant environment free of the stereotypic sleazy bookstore.

Drake's, once a stereotype hole-in-the-wall adult bookstore, has undertaken a massive renovation in stride with the burgeoning Melrose boutique community. An architectural showplace designed by noted architect John Helgin, AIA, it

features a 25 foot neon lightning bolt, terrazzo floor lobby, metal alloyed Roman columns, 20 foot dome ceiling, with neon art and acrylic chainlink fence separations.

Starting yet another Gay-initiated national trend was a natural for this Gay-owned and operated business. Gay and Lesbian people are comfortable with sexual expression, and allow erotica to be a fun, stimulating part of their lifestyle.

Drake's is proud, not only of its successful application of this advance retail principle, where-in Gay and Lesbian people feel pride in their sexuality and lifestyles, but also in our ability to support our community with donations and fundraising in excess of \$15,000.

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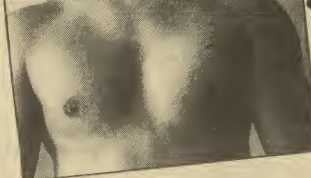
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MARCUS

cont. from previous page

for it—a grand party will be held in conjunction with its introduction. This Saturday night, the doors swing open at 10 p.m. for TM Productions' holiday party, LAST CALL at the Galleria featuring JOLO, those madcap, bouncy singing girls, and classic disco with the latest hits on the charts. Tickets are \$11 in advance or \$15 at the door and available at All American Boy, New York Man, Ron's Records, and Music Media—don't miss it!... The call will be going out any day now for the 2nd edition of MEN BEHIND BARS a benefit with all bartenders (and friends) at the Victoria Theatre on Feb. 17 & 18 (3 shows this year), so don't get left out in the cold... The next Full Moon is on Sat., Dec. 8 so beware of the pre-Xmas crazies on your block or in your building. Also down Sydney (Australia) way, our sister city will be hosting the 1st Annual Mr. Gay Sydney on Saturday, Dec. 1, so if you're a globe trotter and just happen to be in the vicinity, don't miss it—more than 40 contestants

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are cordially invited to a complimentary meeting; Monday—November 26th at 1808 Market; 7-11 PM



BLACK LASHES

A Winter Retreat

KARL STEWART

The Russian River resort area quickly closes down each October to become a quiet rural country, studded with Redwoods and prone to flooding during prolonged rains. Now, however, Bay Area Gays may retreat to Guerneville and the surrounding area for R&R.

During the summer, "the River" is like a mythical party city in the trees—filled with high energy, friends and music. During the winter, the chilled air, drizzly days, and fog that seems to cling to the forests, invite one to build a roaring fire on the

hearth and curl up with a good book, or a good man, perhaps, to escape the intense pressures of winter city life.

The following is designed to be a guide to the facilities: resorts, lodges, cafes, and pubs remaining open through the winter.

There are two full-service resorts in operation:

RIVER VILLAGE: (½ mile east of town) has a full bar and restaurant, pool, very well appointed cabins with fireplaces and tvs.



The end of Summer. You won't see scenes like this at the River these days, but going to Guerneville and environs holds charm in winter as well. (Photo: M. Hicks)

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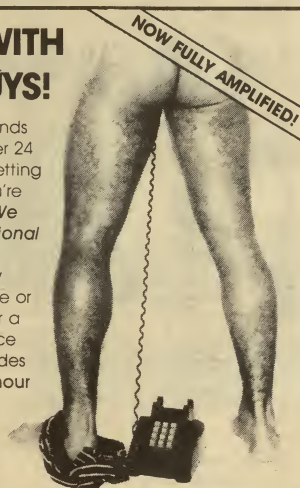
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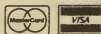
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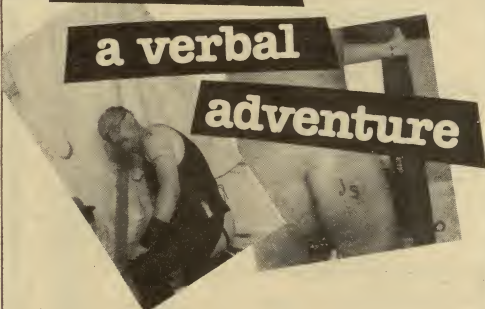
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TRIPLE R RESORT: (4th and Mill) offers the same, except the cabins have no fireplaces.

THE WOODS: (2 miles up Armstrong Wood Rd.) is the largest resort remaining open. It is surrounded on three sides by state park land, making it by far the most picturesque. Spacious cabins offer fireplaces with kitchens and tvs. The resort also has a full bar, pool, hot tubs, and workout room. There is no food service, however. Rooms in a motel unit are also available.

CAMELOT AND FERN-GROVE: are both downtown and known for homespun hospitality. Pools are available at both, and Ferngrove offers kitchens, fireplaces, and tvs in the rooms and cabins.

HIGHLANDS: is also near town, has a beautiful lodge, pool, hot tub, and fireplaces in clean cabins.

PARADISE COVE: is the newest resort located near The Woods. It has no lodge, but offers what is said to be the nicest cabins on the river.

WILLOWS AND VILLAGE INN: are traditional inns. Village Inn is a charming turn of the century inn, with beautifully done rooms which are small, because the building used to be a bordello. It offers a full bar and wonderful food service in its lodge cafe. A comfortable salon offers a fireplace and river view.

Willows is also charming, and faces the river. Willows has a hot tub on the rear deck, overlooking a park which leads to the water's edge. Willows offers its kitchen for the use of its guests.

Pubs and Taverns

It is during the winter, when distracting tourists are not so evident, that the locals settle in to the pubs for some drowsy chat and friendly conversation.

RAINBOW CATTLE COMPANY: located in downtown Guerneville, it has a western flavor and is considered "the country meat rack." It has a DJ booth, which owner Bill Hanson sometimes mans himself.

MOLLY BROWN'S: located in Guerneville park, west of town, is a real rural tavern. It is the home of Hamburger Molly's, serving burgers and some great chili. The hearth always has a fire, and bartender Jack always has a sassy word for his customers.

THE MINE: (across the street from Molly's) is the area's latest addition. It is a beautifully appointed video dance bar finished in a cave-like setting. The staff is quite friendly, and makes strangers feel right at home. Chief mining engineer, Jim Jolly, has big plans, and is

looking forward to a warm winter.

RRR BAR: is sort of the "local Queen's" hangout. Many of the resort bars become places for the resort staff to hang out and chat with guests.

RIVER VILLAGE BAR: holds a mature crowd and offers a fire and some hot jazz piano.

THE WOODS BAR: quiet and largely for guests during the week. Weekends, the place explodes into the area's largest winter disco, with very nice sound system and adequate lighting. The staff is all-pro.

RUSTY NAIL: in Forestville, east of town, is the area's most popular women's bar, also featuring dance space.

Country Cafes

When Lashes first travelled the 77 miles north to be with the Redwoods of Guerneville, Pat's cafe and Fife's restaurant were the only "food games" in town. Now you have a bevy of other food establishments.

LITTLE BAVARIA: located across from Fife's downtown, has been open for two years and offers an extensive and very authentic German menu, including some regional dishes and specials. This menu moves all the way from Southern Fried Chicken to exotic French cui-

sine. The wine list is adequate. Service is included, and they have only beer and wine.

The room is old world in feeling, accented with German antiques, and a high hearth warming the area with a fire beneath a huge copper hood.

BURDON'S: has been one of Guerneville's most consistently high quality cafes. Located about ¼ mile outside (east) of Guerneville, it features well-prepared French cuisine. Over the past 12 years that Jerry and Nick have been restaurateurs, they have seen 'em come and go. They have gradually improved the look of the cafe, bringing it from a sort of Szechuan cafeteria to a charming, comfortable room. This year they have added a patio for warm weather dining, and they feature a full bar.

Dinner includes both soup and salad, and though prices are moderate to high, the quality of service and food preparation is worth every penny. The menu includes classics like Veal Scallopini a la Marsala and Sautéed Sweetbreads Clamart. Open seven days a week.

JOHN'S TABLE: located inside Triple R Resort, is a small high quality cafe. The menu is Cal Cuisine: Chicken Cordon Bleu finished with a dejon and

cont. on next page



Leather chic at the Woods (Photo: R. Pruzen)

FRIESE FRAME

Thanksgiving Thanks

MARK FRIESE

I certainly hope all of us give thanks every day throughout the year, and that turkey day is not the only time.

We are a diverse community in San Francisco, and since we are the only Gay community this fair city has, it seems right that we should be the best.

But don't fret, because we are the best. We certainly know about love and living together, and the most important thing we've been learning through the years is how to take care of each other.

We have, in various ways, been raising money, showing support, and being there for all of our community who have AIDS. A big prayer and thank you should go out to all of those fighters. My love and thanks is certainly with them this year again.

I hope all of you have a happy Thanksgiving, and if you're going through Burlingame, watch your drinking.

Thanksgiving will be celebrated all around town with friends and family. The Chaps family is presenting some outstanding entertainment, and at 9 p.m. on Thanksgiving day they will feature a comedy show featuring Danny Williams and Marga Gomez. Sunday evening at 7 p.m. they will have Michael

Greer and Jane Dornacker, all of who promise to be a fun weekend.

Michael Greer will be performing on Monday and Tuesday, the 26th and 27th, at Sutter's Mill at 7 p.m.

Sunday, the 25th, will be a farewell party for Lucy, a.k.a. Queen Kong, at the White Swallow on Polk Street. Any of you who know him can attest to the fact that he is a good friend who will be missed by all.

Last Call is the dance party at the Galleria this Saturday night. The doors open at 10 p.m. Tix are available at various outlets (\$11 adv.; \$15 door). This is a tribute to the classics, and will also feature Jo-Lo, with its latest recording, appropriately entitled "Last Call."

On Thanksgiving Day, Clementina's will feature Gwen Majors at 7 and 9 p.m. Her rhythm and blues will pick you up and round off your holiday.

Get well soon to Bob Sander, who has been in Kaiser for a few days. We sure miss you at the New Bell, and La Kish has changed her plans and will not be coming back to the Bell.

A great bar in Hayward, the Spoiled Brat, burnt to the ground recently, but I'm assured it will rise up or relocate, and hopefully soon, because all

the people involved with the S.B. are great, as are the other Gay bars and businesses in Hayward.

Dixon, a.k.a. Polk Street Sally, was back behind the bar at the P.S. this past week doing a guest spot, and it was noted that he felt right at home. Also, Duke Armstrong was spotted with a handsome male companion last Saturday doing all those wonderfully serious things one does...

The line-up for candidates for the title of emperor is being added to daily. Could it be that K. Stewart, R. Johnson, Obie, and even a former emperor will battle it out after the first of the year? Time will tell...

Belated birthday greetings to Mr. (Stella) C.M.C. Carnival Stoll. A past Mr. Cowboy, and also past bartender from the Bell. Congratulations on raising the money for the Dennis Yount Fund and for turning (?) the same year a you became Mr. C.M.C.

Buckley's, 131 Gough, besides offering a fine menu and warm atmosphere, has some great cabaret offerings. Sunday evening Ralph Michaels hosts its showcase, Thursday is Rebecca Jones, Fridays features Adele Zane, and on Saturday evenings it is the incomparable Weslia Whitfield. For complete info., call 552-8177, and tell Chip hello when you are there.

Family to me includes anyone, friend or relation, that I love and care about. So spend your holidays with "family." ■

Football Recruiting

Steve Stapleton, manager of the Bay Area's first Gay football team, has announced that the name of the new team is the Gay Gators—a cross between the LaCoste alligator and the Golden Gate Bridge? More important, however, is the fact that despite the numerous and enthusiastic phone responses he's received, Steve has only eleven committed to play in this, the first annual Charity Bowl. The date is Saturday, Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. at Lowell High School.

The San Francisco Deputy Sheriffs, on the other hand, under the managerial skills of handsome Rick Drocco, have two dozen committed players chomping at the bit.

Steve would like everyone to know that flag football is a fun

game, but without relief players the Gay Gators could lose from exhaustion. He would also like to welcome our Lesbian sisters to give him a call days, 442-7000; and evenings, 821-4034. Practices are Saturdays, rain or shine, at Dolores Park, 18th and Dolores.

Sharon McNight will start the game by belting a song, and possibly more. KIOI and KGO-TV's Tom Parker will call the action, and undoubtedly more. Charities that will benefit are Shanti Project, Gay Games II, and Special Olympics. Tickets are available at Headlines on Polk and on Castro, Gay Games II office at the Pride Center, and from players. Anticipated half-time entertainment will be Sistah Boom and The Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. ■

P. Trefzger

Winter Retreat

cont. from previous page

dill sauce, for instance. It is limited in scope, but each entree is prepared with care and the loving hand of a father. The menu changes each day, and Susan, the chef's trusty assistant, prepares deserts to die for—light and rich pumpkin cheese cake is one example. Susan is a former chef for Kiss My Sweet. This charming cafe is open Wednesday through Sunday, and is very homey.

THE VILLAGE INN: is on the other side of the river in Monte Rio in an ancient inn which was the sight of the film Holiday Inn. Crosby's famous film of the '40s.

The cafe is located on the ground floor of this inn, and is warm and friendly with a tiny bar near the entrance. Classical music wafts through the air to ease city tension. The dinner menu is described as Country cooking—local favorites includes "Abalone" Chicken, a full breast of chicken specially

marinated in secret sauce, pounded like abalone, and char-broiled. This is served with french fries. Other country delights are steaks, deep-fried prawns, or a grand calamari steak. Dinner includes soup and salad with vegies and choice of potatoes.

Brunch is also a comfortable period to experience this timelost inn. The inn and cafe are open daily.

RIVER VILLAGE: is just east of Guerneville and has an exceptionally nice space in which to dine. Menu is the usual steak, veal, chicken, and fish. The River Village does offer a full bar, and drinks are well made. Brunch also seems a popular time here. Seafood Crepes and enormous burgers look very good.

CARUSOS & MAMA MIA'S: are both in town and offer Italian/Pizza takeout.

COUNTRY SMOKE-HOUSE: is located across from

Karl's Calendar

Wednesday, Nov. 21: Chaps Goes Cabaret, 10:30 p.m. Tom Ammiano and Val Diamond, cover \$6.

Dynasty Night, see Nov. 28.

Thursday, Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Chaps Cabaret, 7 p.m., Danny Williams, Alicia Daniels, Marga Gomez, Mary Buffet ("My Boyfriend's Back"), cover \$6.

S.F. Eagle Thanksgiving, 2 p.m., turkey and pumpkin pie.

Galleon Dinner, 3-9:30 p.m., \$10.95 special turkey or ham dinners, Leon Maitre D'.

Fickle Fox Dinner, 4-9 p.m., \$15. special turkey & ham dinners.

Friday, Nov. 23: Presentation, Mr. CMC David Stoll and CMC present charity checks, S.F. Eagle, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 24: Chaps Cabaret, 7 p.m., Jane Dornacker & Michael Greer, cover \$6.

Last Call, Galleria, 10 p.m.-5 a.m., \$11 adv. \$15 at door. Jolo in concert, disco 'til dawn, TM Productions.

Sunday, Nov. 25: 49er Football, 1 p.m., Febe's, S.F. Eagle, Chaps, Castro Station, Village, Men's Room, Festus (Pipeline), Kokpit, Renegade, Trax.

San Andreas (MC/LA), S.F. Eagle Patio, Beer Bust, 3-6 p.m., \$6.

Wednesday, Nov. 28: Dynasty Night: 9 p.m., Trax, Renegade, Kokpit, Festus, Men's Room, Village, Castro Station, Cafe Sn. Marcos, Chaps, S.F. Eagle (Dinner), Febe's. ■

the Mine in Guerneville Park. It has a very good fried chicken and superb Texas-style BBQ ribs. Her french fried mushrooms in batter are out of this world.

AMERICAN FLYER: is also downtown and serves up hot dogs and some super chili (a local favorite).

Winter vacations are usually thought of as sunny times in Florida or Palm Springs—where the action is. Think about taking a short trip up the coast for a week or a weekend to retreat in the dool, shady, comforting woods of the Russian River. ■

K. Stewart

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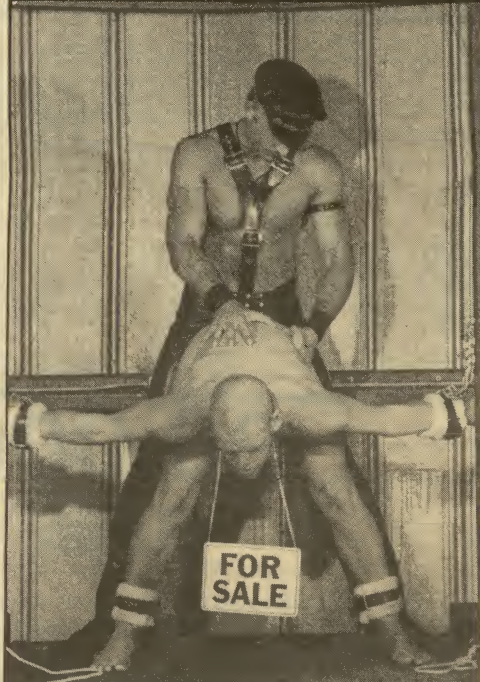
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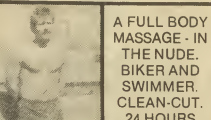
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